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Bye Bye Birdies  
Yankees win AL crown  
It's all in the  
WORLD OF SPORT  
TODAY

Cabinet:  
Rethink  
Brodet  
proposals

**DAVID HARRIS**  
THE cabinet voted to reexamine the proposals of the Brodet Committee to tax interest on short- and mid-term savings during a marathon session, which lasted into early yesterday morning. The vote was 7-4 with one abstention. The vote came after two meetings of ministers and a private debate between Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Finance Minister Dan Meridor, who brought the recommendations to the cabinet. It is understood that prior to their two-and-a-half-hour discussion, a majority of ministers had expressed full support for the Brodet report. However, in the final vote, ministers expressed their concern about the proposal to tax short- and mid-term savings, and gave Treasury Director-General David Brodet, Netanyahu's economic adviser Moshe Leon, and a representative of the Bank of Israel two weeks to formulate alternate proposals. When the vote was finally taken, only seven ministers were present. Those voting in favor were Netanyahu, Tzahi Hanegbi, Natan Sharansky, and Eli Yishai, with Meridor and Ze'ev Begin, voting to accept the report in full. Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein abstained. An additional five ministers voted in absentia, David Levy, Yitzhak Mordechai, and Eli Suissa voting with Netanyahu, while Moshe Katsav and Rafael Eitan supported Meridor. Both Brodet and committee colleague Prof. Amir Barnea have warned that removing this section of the recommendations would be "a mistake." Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, one of the most vocal opponents of the proposal to tax savings, said he was "very happy" with the outcome of the debate. *Michal Yudelman adds:* The Histadrut came out strongly against the government's adoption of the Brodet Committee's recommendations. Directors of pension funds warned that the government's decision will hurt women and young and middle-aged workers, whose pensions will be reduced. Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz demanded that negotiations be opened with the government over the implementation of the recommendations, warning that the Histadrut will handle for the workers' pension rights. *Full Story, Page 8*



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and President Ezer Weizman review an honor guard at Itihadiya Presidential Palace yesterday. (Reuters)

## Weizman says his visit has improved ties with Egypt

**BATSHEVA TSUR**  
CAIRO  
PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman returned from Cairo yesterday evening bearing a message from President Hosni Mubarak to Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, amid indications that the bad feelings between Cairo and Jerusalem had been patched up. Weizman refused to reveal the contents of the message, pending talks with Netanyahu. But he told reporters on the return flight that he had achieved his aim of improving the atmosphere. Although the two presidents conferred tete-a-tete for 90 minutes - touching on a wide range of bilateral and regional issues - they were joined over lunch by most of Egypt's leading ministers, including the prime minister, foreign minister, and defense minister. The presence of such a battery of Egyptian leaders was a clear indication that the chemistry between Weizman and Mubarak had succeeded in breaking the ice which has characterized ties over the past few months, government officials said. "The meeting was the message," as one official put it. But the message went beyond that. Weizman told reporters he had clarified the point that, just as Israel was forced to accept Yasser Arafat as chairman of the PA, Netanyahu would have to be accepted as Israel's elected leader. Mubarak, for his part, noted that he had been reassured that the government would stick to its commitments. "He assured me they will honor and implement all the agreements," Mubarak told a press conference attended by many dozens of media representatives, including a large number from the Arab world. Asked if he is still upset with Netanyahu, Mubarak replied: "It's not a matter of being upset. [Our purpose] is to discuss how to push the process forward to achieve a comprehensive agreement." Israeli officials later expressed satisfaction over this intention. To impress upon the Egyptians the extent to which the talks with the Palestinians are moving forward, Weizman's director-general, Arye Shumer, hooked up US mediator Dennis Ross with Mubarak's adviser Osama Baz during the presidential talks. Ross reportedly conveyed that an agreement is close. "It's clear that the Hebron redeployment has to take place," Weizman said, touching on a bone of contention Mubarak mentioned in his opening remarks to the press. Mubarak reiterated that he would be willing to meet with Netanyahu after the redeployment. At least two concrete achievements came out of the talks. First, the Egyptians agreed to immediately renew the search for Israelis missing in action since the Yom Kippur War. Presidential adjutant Brig.-Gen. Shimon Hefetz will be in touch with Cairo today to discuss details, Weizman said. The search was called off about a year ago, following reports that Egyptian POWs had been killed by IDF soldiers during the 1956 Sinai campaign. Secondly, Egypt agreed to speed up the granting of visas to Israelis. This is expected to facilitate both tourism and trade. Some 300 Israelis have signed up for the economic conference next month in Cairo, and the new arrangement is expected to increase the number. Both presidents also agreed to keep the lines of communication open. Weizman stressed that there could be no movement in the peace process without Egypt. Some observers said this put Egypt back in a pivotal position, after Mubarak refused to attend the recent Washington summit.

## Egypt rolls out red carpet for Weizman

**REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK**  
**BATSHEVA TSUR**  
TWO Egyptian soldiers stood atop the roof of the terminal at Cairo Airport yesterday morning, as President Ezer Weizman's air force plane touched down. Below, numerous Egyptian flags waved in a gentle breeze, and one Cairo resident remarked that it was the first day in months that the weather was pleasant. As Weizman stepped onto the red carpet where Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was waiting to greet him, the soldiers stretched their arms out, suddenly revealing an Israeli flag and the presidential banner. After the handshake, they symbolically folded the flags until Weizman's departure. But if the intention was to keep Weizman's visit as inconspicuous as possible, it was foiled by the Arabic media. The recent tensions in the area, fanned by hostile remarks in the Egyptian press, had the opposite effect. A group of Cairo newspaper editors cancelled a scheduled meeting with Weizman, but the local and world media turned up in droves to cover the joint press conference. Security was frenetic. Journalists were rushed into buses to join the presidential motorcade, which stopped all traffic between the airport and the sumptuous Al Itihadiya Palace where the talks were held. One bus, rushing to keep up, sideswiped a truck, but fortunately no one was hurt. Smart, white-uniformed guards, interspersed with plainclothes security men, lined the entire route, forming a virtual human chain. The trees on the boulevards were in blossom, and somehow it looked like it might be spring. Weizman, who normally spends most of a plane trip chatting with the media, had spent the short flight in his seat after a brief "good morning" greeting. He was clearly tense. As the leaders conferred inside the palace, Egyptian journalists waiting outside spoke of the atmosphere. More than one fingered Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu as "the bad guy," reportedly after receiving an official briefing. Others spoke of their fears of ministers Ariel Sharon and Ze'ev Binyamin Begin.

## Key Hebron issue still unresolved

### Hussein making first visit to territories since '67

**DAVID MAKOVSKY and JON IMMANUEL**  
ISRAEL and the Palestinian Authority negotiators still differ on whether the IDF will be allowed to enter Palestinian-controlled parts of Hebron known as H1, senior sources said last night. Officials in the Prime Minister's Office insist that the issue, considered the most sensitive in the talks, is not just whether Israel is permitted to enter H1 - which comprises 80 percent of Hebron - in hot pursuit after terrorists, but also about whether the IDF can enter the PA-controlled parts of Hebron if Israel suspects an attack is about to occur. Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said last night that Israel was seeking to "reopen" the agreement, a charge Israel rejects. It remained unclear last night whether negotiations would convene in Taba today, or if informal talks would continue in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. US officials believe progress is most likely when small groups of negotiators meet informally, leading some to believe that the formal talks in Taba may bog down. Given the complexity of the toughest issues, one source close to the negotiations said the talks on these points were "moving slowly." Another source close to the negotiations said the "gaps are wide." By contrast, Foreign Minister David Levy said from the Knesset podium yesterday he believed a deal could be struck within a "few days," but gave no evidence to back this up. Meanwhile, Jordan's King Hussein will travel to Jericho today with PA leader Yasser Arafat for his first visit to the territories since the Six Day War. "King Hussein is returning to Jericho with Arafat where they will hold a meeting on Tuesday," a PLO official told Reuters. There was speculation that Hussein's trip was designed as a public gesture to Arafat, in keeping with Hussein's backing of the Palestinian leader at the recent Washington summit. Moreover, sources believe such a public demonstration of solidarity would protect Hussein's Palestinian flank at home. Last night, US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross flew to Amman, where he held talks with Arafat, who visited Hussein yesterday. Ross is seeking to find ways to bridge the gaps between the Israeli and Palestinian positions. Regarding the disagreements over the hot pursuit issue, Erekat told Channel 1 last night, "The problem is that Mr. Netanyahu insists on opening the agreement. He wants, for instance, the right of Israeli troops to re-enter Hebron or hot pursuit, and that is a total knock-out to the agreement." However, Israeli officials believe the right of the IDF to take preventive action, let alone hot pursuit, is also within the parameters of the Oslo 2 accord. Annex I, Article XII, 3a, suggests that the IDF is within its right to act if it can work "at preventing or terminating such an act or incident or apprehending the perpetrators." A Palestinian source close to the negotiators said yesterday that he thought that the question of hot pursuit might be resolved if Israel agreed that they would only enter Palestinian-controlled areas of Hebron with Palestinian Police, and that Palestinian Police would have the same right to enter the 15% of Hebron which will be under Israeli security control. To make such coordination efficient the Palestinians are willing to establish a special command post in which IDF soldiers and Palestinian policemen will be ready to move together quickly, and to increase the number of joint mobile units. The source said much of the confusion over the level of progress made has been caused by the decision to split the talks into three channels, the civilian, security and the overall steering committee. Erekat's statement did not necessarily imply that there was no progress on other issues, only that there was no progress on the major issue. Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour denied that there had been progress on anything. "There is no progress. There is" (Continued on Page 2)

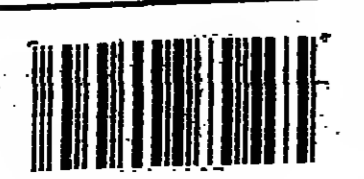
## Hanegbi hopes DNA testing will solve mystery of missing Yemenite children

**JUDY SIEGEL**  
General Gahi Barahash will supervise the project, which will be carried out by Dr. Yehuda Hiss, director of the Institute for Forensic Medicine at Ahu Kabir, and a professor from Sheba Hospital. Hanegbi decided that small bits of bone would be taken from 10 graves chosen as a sample. He announced his plans in a meeting with Rash BLOOD samples will be taken from 1,000 parents and other close relatives of Yemenite children who allegedly disappeared during the early years of the state. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi decided yesterday. The DNA "fingerprints" of the families will be compared with those from bones in 10 graves that have been identified as those of Yemenite children. Health Ministry Director-

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**Dow hits 6,000**  
AT the closing bell on the New York Stock Exchange, the Dow-Jones index of 30 blue-chip stocks was up 40.62 at 6,010.00. The milestone was passed less than a year after clearing 5,000. *Wall Street Report, Page 9*

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# Government handily defeats no-confidence motion

THE Knesset yesterday defeated a no-confidence motion on the political situation 55-49. The two Molelet MKs abstained. The motion marked MK David Liba'i's swan song in the Knesset and he went out in style, hailing the government in a speech that resounded around the plenum. "We have no confidence in [Binyamin Netanyahu], his policies, his decision-making process; or his judgment. He is unrealistic. He has no culture of democratic rule. He does not have a peace policy. Half the country fears the possibility of bloodshed and terrible war. Instead of making the Arabs our partners, he has united the Moslem countries against us. Instead of cultivating mutual respect, trust, and

dialogue, his policy rouses a feeling of humiliation and hatred," Liba'i said. When Liba'i left the podium, he was greeted warmly by his colleagues, who were aware that his resignation comes into force today. Foreign Minister David Levy, on the other hand, met with severe heckling throughout his speech. He returned fire saying the opposition had acted irresponsibly and should have supported the government for continuing with the agreements even though it did not like them. "Instead of strengthening us, they have attacked us from all sides," Levy said. He said it is unfair to portray the government

as making no progress, but said the government is also committed to ensuring the safety of Hebron residents and would not blindly continue the policies of its predecessor. Nonetheless, he also said the end of the talks is imminent, a matter of days. Levy also related to a decision taken in the Labor faction to submit a no-confidence motion on economic issues every week. "I suggest you back down from the idea, because what you left behind was scorched earth," Liba'i said. Avraham Shohat (Labor) submitted a no-confidence motion on the handling of the Brodet Committee report and what he called the undermining of the country's economic standing in the world.

# Grapes of Wrath panel probes civilian casualties

THE five-nation Operation Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee is to make on the spot inquiries into last Friday's incident in which 12 Lebanese civilians were wounded by mistakenly directed IDF artillery fire. The committee met yesterday at UNIFIL's headquarters at Nakoura after Lebanon submitted a complaint over the shooting. The IDF Spokesman said the committee did not conclude its deliberations and that "verification" visits would be made today and tomorrow in Israel and Lebanon. He said the aim of the visits is to help clarify the complaint, adding that the hearing yesterday was held in a practical and professional atmosphere. Lebanon, according to newspa-

per reports there, is pressing the committee to condemn Israel, while also making it clear that the understandings are aimed at protecting Lebanese civilians, as well as Israelis. The Lebanese government is also coming under increasingly intense pressure from Hizbullah, which warned again that it has not forsaken the Katyusha option as a means of retaliation. "The resistance has a responsibility to defend its people. We cannot be flexible on such an issue, whatever the price may be," Sheikh Nabil Kaouk, Hizbullah's chief in south Lebanon, was quoted as saying by the Lebanese press. According to Lebanese officials, who were also quoted in newspa-

per reports, the future of the monitoring committee and its ability to prevent any future cross-border fighting will depend on the outcome of the present discussions. Israel maintains that the shooting which resulted in the civilian casualties was an act of self-defense, after Hizbullah fired mortars from the outskirts of Safed al-Battikh, where the casualties occurred. Senior military sources said the IDF only responded after the mortar fire continued for more than 30 minutes and threatened the lives of soldiers. Fighting continued in the security zone yesterday, with Hizbullah mortar attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army positions. There were no casualties, and IDF and SLA gunners returned fire.

## Tichon wants list of Palestinian legislators to visit Knesset

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon is demanding a full list members of the Palestinian Legislative Council invited by the Hadash faction to visit the Knesset tomorrow, and their schedule, before authorizing the visit. Tichon met with Hadash MKs yesterday and complained that he had learned of the visit through the media, rather than directly from the faction. He noted Palestinian officials had visited the Knesset before, and even addressing committee members, but he said he would judge this case once he had the list. The main stumbling block is ensuring that the visitors are members of the legislative body, which was democratically elected, as opposed to the Palestinian National Council. Tichon also expressed concern that the visitors might be heckled by other MKs. He recalled a visit by South Lebanese Army head Antoine Lahad a couple of years ago, during which Arab MKs shouted abuse at the guest in the visitors gallery.

## Hebron tour fails to change MKs' opinions

A TOUR of Hebron by nine MKs yesterday appeared to change few opinions, despite the fact that most said it was an eye-opener. The tour was arranged by Michael Kleiner (Likud) to give MKs who had not yet had a chance to learn about the situation from up close an opportunity to do so. The Jewish residents of Hebron showed the MKs several security problems they perceive in the agreement, such as the facts that the only road to the Jewish cemetery will be controlled by the Palestinian Authority, there is no separation at all between Jewish and Arab areas, and the PA will have civilian control over the city. Orit Shtrick, one of the residents, noted that this has far-reaching consequences: For instance, Israeli insurance will not cover the access roads, which means buses and food supply trucks might refuse to come. What appeared to make the greatest impression on the MKs, however, was their trip to Abu Snehb, a hill due to be aban-

doned by the army, from which a sniper would have a clear shot at visitors to the Machpela Cave or into the windows of Jewish homes. Both Kleiner and Yuri Stern (Yisrael Ba'aliya) said the visit strengthened their conviction that changes were needed in both the security and civilian sections of the agreement. "It is precisely those who advocate peace who should be the first to worry about security arrangements," Stern said. "[The lessons of the recent riots] necessitate reconsidering the previous government's decisions, precisely so that [the process] will continue. Otherwise, the whole thing will blow up within a short time." However, the left-wing MKs said the visit also strengthened their previous convictions. Yossi Katz (Labor), for instance, said the trip convinced him that no security arrangements could possibly protect the Jewish communi-

## Chirac to press for Gaza port

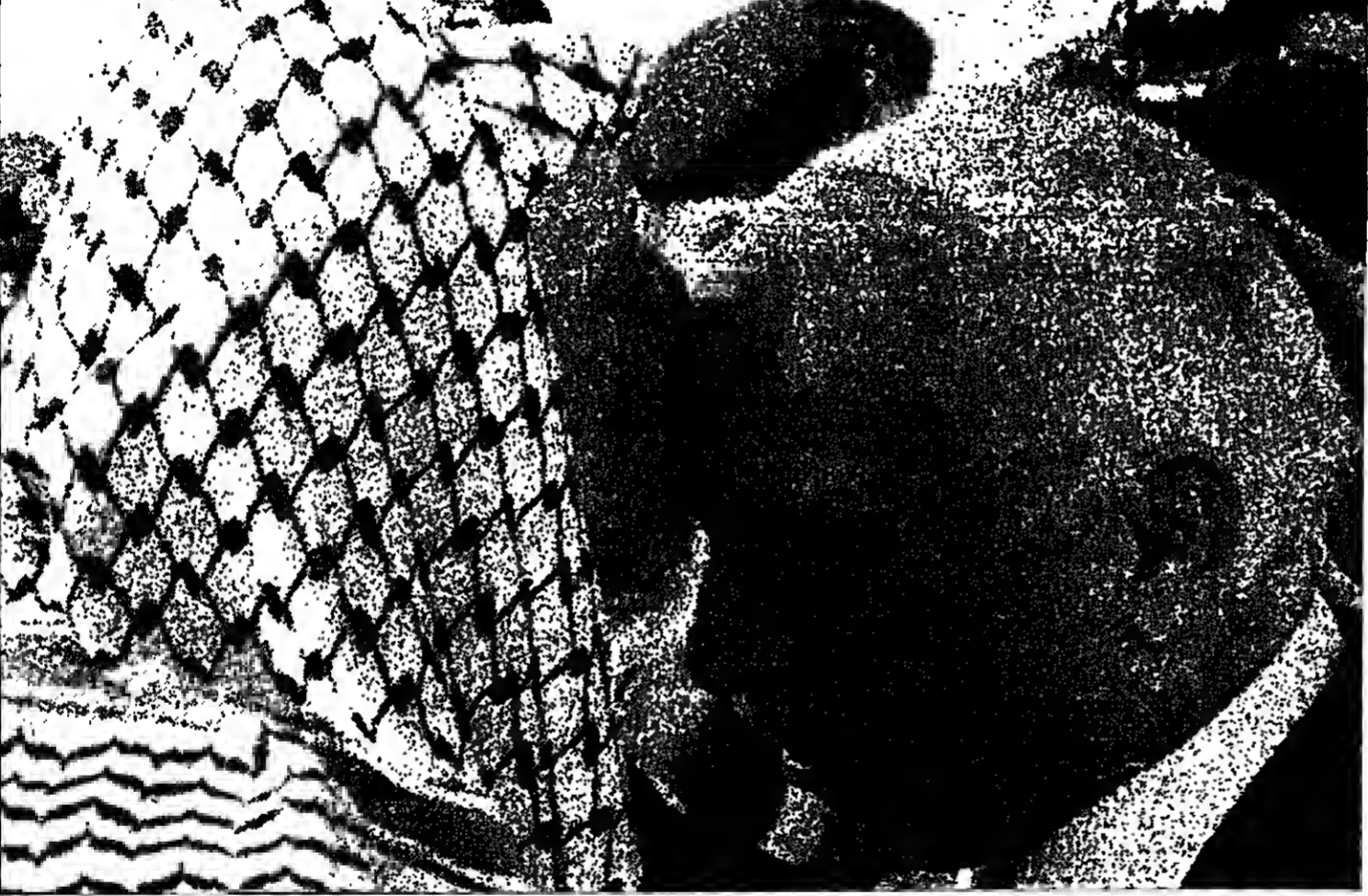
FRENCH President Jacques Chirac, who will be visiting here next Monday, will ask Israel to permit the Palestinians to develop a port in Gaza and allow more family reunifications, diplomatic sources quoted visiting French Foreign Ministry official Bertrand Dufourcq as saying yesterday. Dufourcq held separate talks during his one-day visit with Foreign Minister David Levy, Foreign Ministry Director-General Eitan Bentsur, and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's foreign policy adviser Dr. Dore Gold. He also had a very brief meeting with Netanyahu. He also sought to assure his hosts that France is not seeking to supplant the US role as Middle East mediator, but rather has its own specific ideas to offer, the sources said. Dufourcq also met with US special coordinator Dennis Ross. Israel opposes a French suggestion that the European Union decide later this month to name its own envoy to the Middle East. Today, Levy is expected to meet with all the EU ambassadors based here, provide his own overview of the region, and voice opposition to the idea of a European envoy. On a related issue, the sources said that Dufourcq did not seek to resolve the question of whether Foreign Minister Herve de Chareze will visit Orient House during the Chirac visit, something which Israel rejects. Instead, Gold is supposed to solve this issue with a top aide in Chirac's office later this week.

## Mordechai meets senior US officials

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, visiting in Washington, said that according to reports he received from the government, there has been progress in the Israeli-Palestinian talks. During a visit to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Mordechai told Israeli reporters that the peace process would benefit as the negotiations advance. The matter will be at the forefront of Mordechai's meeting this morning with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Mordechai said. He is also scheduled to meet for the first time with Defense Secretary William Perry, prior to which Mordechai will be received at the Pentagon. Mordechai is also due to meet at the White House with National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. Hallel Kattler

## MDA team saves 16-year-old's life

A Magen David Adom team from Tel Aviv yesterday saved a 16-year-old boy who collapsed from cardiac arrest while playing basketball in a Herzliya school. The team reached the school in three minutes and started intensive resuscitation, including heart massage. A mobile intensive care unit followed and continued the work. After half an hour, the youth's heart began beating again and he was rushed to Meir Hospital in Kfar Sava where he was in serious condition and unconscious. Judy Siegel



Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat kisses the forehead of Jordan's King Hussein after arriving at Amman's Raghdan Palace yesterday.

## RED CARPET

(Continued from Page 1) sations. Mubarak interveoed, saying the Israelis should have a turn.

The conference was to have been relayed live to Israel. Israel Radio had ordered a technician to do a satellite hook-up. But the technician had decided to go to the duty-free shop at Ben-Gurion Airport. He missed the presidential plane, and reporter Yitzhak Feller's broadcast could not be relayed. But the press conference clearly got exposure abroad, and the message ran out loud and clear. On the flight back, Weizman was his usual beaming self, patting cheeks and walking down the aisle during takeoff.

HEBRON (Continued from Page 1) ooting new. The differences are as great now as they were a week ago," he told The Jerusalem Post. Yesterday, government coordinator Maj.-Gen. Oreo Shabor, who heads the Israeli civil affairs negotiating team, helicoptered into Hebron to meet with his Palestinian counterpart Jamil Tarihi for a field visit. The main civil problem is the extent of Israeli civil administration in the area under its security control. The Oslo Accords restrict Israeli civil control to the 400 "Israelis and their property" but

Israel wants to include property now lived in by Arabs to which Jews had title before 1929, when a massacre drove Jews from the city. Erekat was apparently referring to this demand when he said last weekend that "Israel wants to create two cities." Erekat and Asfour both said they saw no likelihood of an imminent Arafat meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, but there was some speculation by Palestinian sources that Arafat would invite Netanyahu to Jericho to meet with him and Hussein, with the participation of Ross. The Prime Minister's Office said on invitation had been extended, Israel Radio reported last night. Arafat, brushing aside questions about a possible meeting with Netanyahu, said: "The most important thing is not the meeting...the most important thing is the implementation of what has been agreed."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

- Two killed in road accidents: A man was killed yesterday afternoon when his car collided with a truck at the Pe'at Sadeh junction in Gush Katif. Another man was killed and a second moderately injured when a semitrailer collided with a car on the Ramallah bypass road near Beit El. Itim
- Zvilli to Labor: Cut ties with French Likud leader: Labor Secretary-General MK Nissim Zvilli yesterday called on Labor's delegates and representatives in France to boycott and sever all relations with the Likud's president in France, Jacques Cooper. Zvilli's move came after Cooper's reference to mass-murderer Baruch Goldstein in the Yom Kippur memorial prayers, while omitting any mention of the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Zvilli noted that in the past people tended to overlook Cooper's utterances concerning Rabin's murder and his statements against the Labor government. But on this Yom Kippur he "crossed the line in choosing to include in the special prayer in memory of the dead the heinous murderer Goldstein, while not even mentioning Rabin's murder," he said. Michal Yudelman
- Chief rabbis to visit Rachel's Tomb: The chief rabbis are to visit Rachel's Tomb today in what Religious Affairs Ministry officials hope will be a gesture which will encourage other Jewish pilgrims to visit the shrine on the outskirts of Bethlehem. The tomb marks the border between the area under the control of the IDF and that under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Authority. During the recent clashes between Palestinians and IDF troops, it was one of the points of confrontation. According to Oded Wiener, head of the Ministry's Holy Sites Authority, the tomb has been open to the public since Sunday, although relatively few worshippers visited it. Haim Shapiro
- PA Police arrest Jihad activists in Bethlehem: Five Islamic Jihad activists have been arrested in Bethlehem, a Palestinian Police spokesman said last night. The spokesman said the arrests were made late Sunday night, but gave no details. The security forces had warned of the possibility of an Islamic Jihad attack yesterday, the anniversary of the slaying of Islamic Jihad leader Fathi Shkaki in Malta. Itim

## Netanyahu: Talks at 'sensitive stage'

LIAT COLLINS THE talks with the Palestinians have reached a "very sensitive" stage, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday in an impromptu press conference in the Knesset. He reportedly used the same phrase throughout his address to a closed meeting of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, his first to the committee since last month's rioting. He said he was not trying to evade responsibility for the decision to open the exit to the Hasmonaan Tunnel, but said the number of weapons used in the incident had been used as pretext for the rioting. He said there had been intelligence warnings about disturbances before the exit was opened. According to an official briefing, Netanyahu told the committee that the shooting of IDF soldiers was serious enough, but it was made more grave by the fact the number of weapons used exceeded the number of Palestinian policemen licensed to carry arms, and that these weapons should have been confiscated by the Palestinian Authority. He would not commit to a date for finishing the talks, and only repeated that they have reached a "sensitive stage." He said that after the Hebron issue has been solved, there are other controversial subjects that need addressing, including changing the Palestinian Covenant; confiscating the illegal weapons in the autonomous areas; and the condition of Palestinian murderers. He said the government would maneuver within the existing agreements and not reopen them. Uzi Baran (Labor) Netanyahu, saying no other government had caused such havoc in such a short period. Netanyahu responded: "Even if the opposition does not support us, I don't expect it to adopt the position of the Palestinians." Ori Orr (Labor) said Netanyahu was using inaccurate numbers about the number of weapons in Palestinian hands. He said the premier claimed the Palestinian Police had received tens of thousands of weapons, whereas they had only received 8,200. Meretz leader Yossi Sarid attacked Netanyahu for not realizing the likely consequences of opening the tunnel, as did Ehud Barak, who said he should have happened to the government of Golda Meir and Menachem Begin, which both got bogged down in wars they did not want to participate. Netanyahu said he did not take the attacks on him by Arab countries personally. "Every time there's a new government, [especially] one that doesn't automatically make unilateral concessions but insists on reciprocity, there is a natural tendency in Arab quarters to try and place pressure on such a government. And that's very much the case in this incident as well."

## Syria wants Arab, world action to deter Netanyahu

DAMASCUS (Reuters) - Syria's ruling coalition has accused Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu of endangering peace and security in the region and called for Arab and world action to force him to abandon his "hard-line" policies. "Netanyahu's policies are threatening both peace and security...the international community should move to put an end to this aggressive policy," the central leadership of the National Progressive Front said in a statement, following a meeting on Sunday night. The front, a coalition of parties led by the Baath party, said the meeting, chaired by Vice-President Zuheir Masharqa and attended by Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, renewed Syria's commitment to make peace with Israel. But it stressed that any settlement of the conflict should be based on the land-for-peace principle. "The meeting discussed the irresponsible policies of Netanyahu, which constitute a setback for the peace process, a rebellion against the principles on which the peace process was based, and a flagrant challenge to the Arab nation," the statement said. "Arab solidarity should be achieved to counter these current challenges," it added. The Syrian central leadership described Netanyahu's policies as "aggressive" and said he was "trying to undermine the peace process and to return it to the zero point."

We regret to announce the passing of our dear beloved **HARRY RIMER** formerly of Port Elizabeth. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, October 15 at 3 p.m. at the Kfar Sava Cemetery. The bereaved family and friends. Shiva will take place at the Rimer family on Moshav Kfar Truman.

In sorrow we announce the passing of our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother **DORA ZICHRONI** אשת ד"ר. The funeral will take place today, Tuesday, October 15, 1996. A bus will leave Nofim Towers for the cemetery at 1:00 p.m. (Tel. 02-6580222 for details) The Land and Blumberg families

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האזנה מן האולם



# Court delays revealing identity of intermediary in wiretapping case

TEL AVIV Magistrate's Court Judge George Kara has granted the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office an extra few days before submitting to the defense the name of the man who acted as the intermediary between state witness Ya'acov Tsur and the police and state attorney in the media wiretapping case.

Prosecutor Rafi Levy asked Kara to postpone lifting the confidentiality clause protecting the man's identity, pending a decision by the prosecution on what further steps to take, if any. Kara gave the district attorney's office until October 17 to present its plans.

Dan Avi-Yitzhak and Yehuda Weinstein, representing Ma'ariv publisher Ofer Nimrod, who is charged with 14 counts of commissioning wiretapping, suborning witnesses and disrupting a police investigation, last week asked Kara to lift the confidentiality clause, signed

RAINE MARCUS

by former Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal.

According to Avi-Yitzhak and Weinstein, the man's identity is relevant to the defense, apparently with the aim of proving that Tsur is an unreliable witness.

The district attorney's office has asked that the man's name not be revealed, because he is a businessman whose reputation could be damaged if he is connected to the case.

Avi-Yitzhak and Weinstein also asked Kara to lift confidentiality orders on conversations between Tsur and someone close to him, the name of a source close to him, the name of a person who tried to extract information from those involved in the case, the name of a police informer in the case and others, but Kara

rejected these requests.

The intermediary arranged for Tsur to speak with Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz, after Tsur had decided to turn state's witness. Hefetz, in turn, passed Tsur on to the then-head of the National Crimes Squad, Avi Cohen, and Tel Aviv District Attorney Miriam Roseothal, who drafted the agreement with Tsur, in which the latter received \$200,000 and other favors in return for his evidence against Nimrod and others.

Because the defense lawyers of all those involved are still battling to receive relevant prosecution material, the trials have not yet begun, and thus Tsur has not yet testified 18 months after the agreement. Others implicated by him have still not been indicted in the complex case, which is expected to take years to resolve.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair has decided not to open a criminal investigation into haredi journalists and rabbis who have attacked the Supreme Court and its president, Aharon Barak, over the past two months.

Ben-Yair's decision refers mainly to articles published two months ago in the haredi papers *Hashava* and *Yated Ne'eman*, following the High Court of Justice's issuance of an injunction against the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat, as well as to remarks made recently by Shas spiritual mentor Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

The articles accused the court, and Barak in particular, of being

EVELYN GORDON

hostile to traditional Judaism; Yosef said Israeli courts are worse than those in non-Jewish countries.

Ben-Yair noted that he is in general reluctant to prosecute people for what they say, because of the importance of allowing freedom of expression. Furthermore, he said, taking legal action in such cases is likely to lead to one of two undesirable consequences: Either it will put a gag on people who hold such views, or it will focus even more attention on these views by giving the perpetrators a platform in court from which to expound their views.

"The proper arena in which to

discuss the attacks on the Supreme Court is the public forum, not the courts," he wrote.

The wave of public condemnations of the articles, from all sides of the political spectrum, was the best possible way to deal with the problem, Ben-Yair said. In contrast, legal action - especially against journalists or rabbis - is liable to deepen the alienation of the haredi community, he noted.

Regarding Yosef's remarks, Ben-Yair added that it would be very difficult to prove criminal intent, since his followers say the statements were meant only to encourage people to use the rabbinical courts.

# No law blocking sale of transplant organs

JUDY SIEGEL

THERE is no law specifically barring the sale of transplant organs, either from a cadaver or from a live donor, the Health Ministry has disclosed.

The Kotev Committee, whose findings related to senior transplant surgeon Prof. Zaki Shapira were published Sunday, noted that organ transplants are carried out on the basis of regulations issued by the ministry. According to these instructions, only a first-degree living relative may donate a kidney to someone else, and then only after the hospital's Helsinki Committee on human medical experimentation approves it.

The committee added that this regulation is apparently "not carefully observed by our institutions."

The ministry surveyed a number of transplant centers in the US and Europe and found that 15 percent of them take kidneys from strangers, not only from close relatives. Most of these countries have strict laws or regulations that unequivocally bar the sale of organs.

Here, two-thirds of kidney transplants come from live donors; this is due to the shortage of people ready to will their organs after death. The accepted ratio in the Western world is 67% from cadavers and only 33% from living donors.

The Kotev Committee therefore recommended regulating donation of organs from the living, with coordination and control by the National Transplant Center, carrying out transplants only in public hospitals; checking the potential donor psychologically, medically, and socially; and requiring final approval by a committee which includes a public representative and a psychiatrist.

The committee, headed by Hadassah-University Hospital anesthesiology chief Prof. Shamai Kotev, had examined charges made by Ma'ariv against Shapira, who is head of kidney transplantation at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus. He will be barred from performing kidney transplants from live donors until the attorney-general decides what to do about the case.

The paper charged Shapira with having transplanted kidneys that had been sold by Palestinians to wealthy Israelis and foreigners.

According to the committee findings, Shapira "cooperated with intermediaries that acted to find live kidney donors, and it is reasonable that these go-betweens did not do this for altruistic reasons."

Shapira admitted not sticking to ministry rules on checking potential donors' credentials, and explained that he did so in an "effort to promote transplants at any price."

The committee was "left with the sad impression that Prof. Shapira's behavior does not meet the ethical code required of people who deal in organ transplants."

The committee also criticized the behavior of the directors of Beilinson and the private Assuta and Herzliya Medical Centers, which were required to check whether they were involved as intermediaries in the sale of organs not involving first-degree relatives.



Yad Vashem chairman Avner Shalev (from left) joins Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and his wife Sara, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, chairman of the International Council of Yad Vashem Dr. Josef Burg and other dignitaries in the singing of 'Hatikva' at the Conference on Holocaust and Education in Jerusalem last night.

# PM: Holocaust education needed against deniers

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THERE is no family in Israel that has not been directly or indirectly affected by the Holocaust, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said last night.

Speaking at Yad Vashem's Valley of the Communities, at the opening ceremony of the first International Conference on the Holocaust and Education, Netanyahu noted that his father-in-law was the sole survivor of a large family.

Holocaust education is particularly vital now, he said, because the survivors are dying while the number of Holocaust deniers is increasing. It is important to disseminate the truth about the Holocaust, he stressed, adding that the governments of 17 countries knew in 1943 about what was happening in places like

Dachau and Birkenau and did nothing to prevent the atrocities.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, in his address, cited several questions that continue to baffle Holocaust researchers, the most puzzling of which is how the Nazis succeeded in influencing cultured people and humanists to reach a consensus on the annihilation of the Jewish people.

# Burg urges visiting women to stand up for their rights

ESTHER HECHT

ISRAELIS have believed for years they owe their lives to the brave Israeli male, forgetting that society is a partnership of all its members, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg said yesterday.

"You are coming to a very macho society," the chairman told some 500 Jewish women from around the world here for the first International Lioo of Jodah Conference.

Burg related how he dealt with the problem that arose when his daughter Ronit said she wanted to read from the Torah on her bat mitzva. Knowing his father would object, he turned to his mentor, Prof. Yeshayahu Leibowitz, for advice.

"Your micro request is a macro

issue," Leibowitz told him. "The Jewish people is facing 50 percent assimilation. Jewish history is perceived subjectively as male history, in which the Jewish people functioned at 50 percent capacity. Can you imagine having 100 percent capacity?"

With this encouragement, Ronit negotiated the matter with her grandfather and she read from the Torah.

According to Halacha, modern woman is not an equal, Burg said. But there are other ways to interpret Jewish sources. Using another family anecdote in which the biblical Eve emerged as the source of

beyond us, and of the right to make choices between good and evil," he encouraged the participants to stand up for their rights.

Among the women are more than 400 fundraisers and leaders from established Jewish communities in North America, Western Europe, South Africa, and Australia, affiliated with United Jewish Appeal/United Israel Appeal. Each of them has contributed at least \$5,000 to the annual campaign.

Many of the others are from emerging Jewish communities in countries such as Albania, Azerbaijan, and Bosnia. The four-day conference is being held at the Jerusalem International Conference Center.

# Nearly \$1m. spent probing Swiss accounts

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

JEWISH organizations, with a contribution from the Jewish Agency, have spent nearly \$1 million on the investigation of Jewish assets in Switzerland, authoritative sources said.

The cost, which includes the expense of combing archives for wartime documents, is reasonable because it ultimately could reap millions of dollars in the recovery of dormant Jewish assets, the sources said. However, others said the cash-strapped Jewish Agency should not help foot the bills.

The wartime documents, known as the Safe Haven collection, are not used to link bank accounts with specific individuals.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Conference seeks freedom for Vanunu

"I am happy for revealing what I revealed." This message, signed Mordchai Vanunu, was read yesterday to the first local conference called to demand the release of the nuclear technician most Israelis still brand a traitor.

Actress Susannah York read the one line smuggled out of the prison where Vanunu has spent 10 years in solitary confinement. Nobel peace laureate Joseph Rotblat, who worked with Robert Oppenheimer on the first atomic bomb, appealed to Israel to free Vanunu. He said Vanunu's 18-year sentence was out of proportion to his crime of giving details of Israel's nuclear program to the *London Sunday Times*. *Reuter*

### EI AI cuts fares to Europe

Travelers who buy tickets to Europe this week will be able to cash in on an offer by EI AI which is the latest step in the ongoing airline price war.

It is offering a price of \$299 round-trip for night flights to Europe and \$349 for day flights. The catch is that the tickets, valid during November, must be ordered by Friday.

The destinations offered are Amsterdam, Paris, Zurich, and Rome. The EI AI deal undercuts earlier offers for some European destinations for \$333. EI AI also recently cut its trans-Atlantic fares, which now start at \$699 to New York. *Haim Shapiro*

### Philatelists win honors in Turkey

Israeli philatelists made their best showing in decades at the international stamp exhibition Istanbul 96, which ended recently. Some 65 countries were represented, with 3,000 windows of stamp collections.

Twelve Israeli collectors attended. For the first time, an Israeli, Phoenix Insurance chairman Yossi Hachmi, won the top prize for his collection. A large gold medal was given to Moshe Shmueli, for his collection on classical Bulgaria, while two additional gold prizes to Yigal Netanel for his Japan theme collection, and to Yossi Hachmi for his on letters from the Holy Land. The Israeli philatelic journal *Shoval* won a bronze medal. *Judy Siegel*

### Tour guides to learn to deal with disabled

The first course for tour guides for groups with disabilities is to open this week under the auspices of the Association of Community Centers.

Participants are to learn to deal with tourists confined to wheelchairs, the blind and those with poor vision, the deaf, the retarded, children in special education classes, and the elderly.

Participants are to attend lectures by experts who deal with these populations and are to visit sites that have access for the disabled. *Haim Shapiro*

### Man found dead in Tel Aviv

The body of a 65-year-old man was found yesterday afternoon in his apartment on Rehov Dizengoff in Tel Aviv.

A pathologist determined that he had been murdered several days ago. Police are investigating. *litm*

### Sharansky meets Kasparov

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky told world chess champion Garry Kasparov that chess had saved his sanity in the years he was a prisoner in the Soviet Union, to which Kasparov responded: "I've also retained my sanity thanks to the game."

The two met yesterday at Sharansky's office in the Knesset. Sharansky said he feared losing to Kasparov at the match they're scheduled to play today, when the champion is expected to play 25 matches simultaneously. *Liat Collins*

### Bezeq instituting new toll-free prefix

Starting in March, all 177 toll-free numbers will begin instead with the prefix 1-800. Bezeq said yesterday that it will also cancel the second group of digits, 022, and replace them and the subsequent numbers with a six-digit number.

Bezeq explained that it was making the change to "join the rest of the world, especially the US, where toll-free numbers begin with 1-800. European countries recently decided to adopt the same digits.

In addition, due to the growing demand for toll-free numbers, the 177-022... numbers did not allow for expansion. The new system will leave room for an additional million toll-free numbers. *Judy Siegel*

# Pennies from Heaven

For forty-eight years, our readers' pennies have brought heaven on earth to deprived kids throughout the country. From the early days when we collected toys at Hanukkah time to the present when **The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund** is an all-year ongoing way of helping children living in institutions and foster homes. We bring help to these needy kids with extra health care, shoes, toys, educational supplies, sports equipment and all those things that give them the kick-start in life expected by their peers.

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# Protestant inmates boost Ulster peace hopes

**MARTIN COWLEY BELFAST**

The bombing by the Irish Republican Army was the first in the province in two years and rang alarm bells about a return to the 27-year pattern of retaliatory violence in which about 3,200 people have been killed. The IRA is committed to ending British rule in Northern Ireland.

The CLMC, which groups the outlawed Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) guerrilla groups, has issued no statement since the bombing at Lisburn, near Belfast.

The views of about 500 Loyalists serving sentences were seen crucial to the reaction of the CLMC, which called a cease-fire two years ago after it received support from within the Maze prison, Northern Ireland's top security jail.

White said the jailed Loyalists

believed the IRA and its Sinn Fein political wing were trying to provoke a Loyalist backlash and they decided they would not be sucked back into violence.

"The prisoners recognize that Sinn Fein and the IRA are trying to provoke Loyalists into conflict," he said.

The Irish Independent newspaper, published in Dublin, reported yesterday that the CLMC had agreed to maintain its truce but that further IRA attacks could lead to reprisals.

The paper quoted what it described as a leading Loyalist hardliner as saying another IRA attack would be "one too many."

Security sources fear a collapse of the Loyalist truce would result in a resumption of random killings of members of Northern Ireland's Roman Catholic minority, and bombs in Dublin, capital of the Irish Republic.

# Clinton says his health is 'very good'

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** - President Bill Clinton, in his first interview about his health, told the *New York Times* he was in good shape and had never taken mood-altering drugs or had psychological counseling.

In an interview on Saturday that was published in yesterday's *Times*, Clinton said his three most troublesome problems - hoarseness, allergies and weight - were under control.

He also said that he sometimes does not hear comments in crowds because of a high-frequency hearing loss. The damage was apparently caused by hunting and loud music.

"The only time it ever bothers

me is when I'm in a crowd and someone is trying to talk to me, or I'm trying to speak," reporter Lawrence Altman, a physician, quoted him as saying. "The background noise often seems to drown out the voices."

Questions arose about Clinton's health during the 1992 presidential campaign, when he was hampered at times by hoarseness, but until now his staff had refused all requests to interview him about his health. He described his health as "very good" and said he had not been aware of repeated requests since 1992 for an interview about his health.

The *Times* quoted him as saying he had overcome hoarseness by

drinking plenty of water, not eating late at night, raising the head of his bed and taking occasional antacids. Doctors often suggest these measures for patients to reduce gastric reflux, a common condition in which stomach acid goes into the oesophagus and may irritate the vocal cords.

At his last physical examination, Clinton weighed 216 pounds (98 kg), down from 226 pounds (102 kg) in 1992.

Senior White House Physician E. Connie Mariano, who was present during the interview, said Clinton "is fit to re-visit," indicating she believed there were no medical reasons why he should not serve a second term as presi-

dent.

She said Clinton fights allergies with desensitization shots that he takes every week, a non-sedating anti-histamine and decongestant drug and an anti-inflammatory steroid nasal spray.

"We catch him, usually after a run, or call to him upstairs and say it is time for your shot," Mariano was quoted by the newspaper as saying. "Then we sit and watch him and make sure he does not have a reaction to the shot."

Clinton said his press secretary Michael McCurry had been correct in saying the president had never contracted a sexually transmitted disease, the newspaper reported.



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole waves at supporters while being introduced at a rally in Somerville, New Jersey, this week.

# President's aides say GOP attacks on character issue will backfire

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (Reuters)** - While reacting with dismay to Republican attacks on President Bill Clinton's character, the president's aides privately believe the strategy will backfire and doom any chance for rival Bob Dole to revive his campaign.

Clinton, in New Mexico to prepare for his final debate with Dole tomorrow night in San Diego, has adopted an above-the-fray attitude as vice presidential challenger Jack Kemp and House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich lead increasingly aggressive assaults on Clinton's ethics and character.

"It's great to have Newt back and its stupid for them to let him do it," a senior campaign official said of Gingrich, who for much of the year had adopted a low profile because of negative assessments of him among voters.

Gingrich emerged from his self-imposed exile last weekend after Dole and his advisers huddled in Washington to discuss how to generate public doubts about Clinton's moral leadership.

The Republican firebrand predicted "unavoidable" congressional and criminal investigations into contacts between Clinton and an Indonesian businessman and his associ-

ates, including an Indonesian couple's \$425,000 contribution to the Democratic Party.

"This makes Watergate look tiny," Gingrich said on CBS's *Face the Nation*. "I mean, this is a potential abuse of the American system on behalf of an Indonesian billionaire in a way that we have never seen in American history."

He also linked reports of alleged past drug use by some members of the White House staff to what he said were administration cutbacks in the anti-drug war. "It helps you understand why, as soon as they got sworn into office, they cut the office of the drug czar by 82 percent and why they cut drug interdiction by 50 percent," the speaker said.

Kemp, who disappointed some party activists last week when he avoided personal attacks on Clinton during his vice presidential debate with Al Gore, also has stepped up his rhetoric about character and Clinton.

Appearing on ABC's *This Week With David Brinkley*, Kemp said: "It is clear that Travelgate and Filegate, the abuse of power, the arrogance of power, the possibility of a pardon [for Clinton's Whitewater partners] are not the type of things that we would want or expect from

the Oval Office of the president of the United States."

Travelgate is shorthand for the firing of staff of the White House travel office and Filegate refers to the improper acquisition of hundreds of FBI files on Republicans by the personnel security office of Clinton's White House.

Clinton has also refused to rule out a possible pardon for Susan McDougal, a former partner in the Whitewater land deal who has been jailed for refusing to testify before a grand jury.

There has been considerable speculation about just how aggressive Dole will be in the second presidential debate with Clinton, in which members of an audience made up of undecided voters will ask the candidates questions.

Some Dole advisers, including former Education Secretary William Bennett, have argued that only a broad assault on Clinton's character will pump momentum into the Dole campaign. But Dole has seemed reluctant to revive the reputation he acquired 20 years ago as a "hatchet man" while running for vice president on the 1976 Republican ticket with then-President Gerald Ford.

Management Association.

The key findings of the survey were as follows:

- 25 percent say they require an enormous amount of information for their job responsibilities; another 65 percent require a lot of information.
- 31 percent receive enormous amounts of unsolicited information.
- 49 percent feel they are often unable to handle the volumes of information received.
- 38 percent waste substantial time trying to locate the right information.
- 47 percent say collection of information distracts them from their main job responsibilities.
- 48 percent believe the Internet will be a prime cause of information overload over the next two years.
- 41 percent of managers agree their

# Pope to leave hospital today

**ROME (AP)** - Pope John Paul II will have his stitches out and return to the Vatican today to continue his convalescence from an appendectomy, doctors said.

"He's in good shape," Dr. Attilio Maseri, chief cardiologist at the Gemelli Polyclinic Hospital, said yesterday. "He's better than I thought he would be."

John Paul appeared rested and in good spirits in his first post-surgery public appearance Sunday, joking from his hospital window that Gemelli had become "Vatican No. 3" because of his stays there. The papal summer palace in Castelgandolfo was Vatican No. 2, he quipped.

"He's witty," Maseri said. "I mean, to stand up there and say

this is Vatican 3 takes guts."

Yesterday's medical bulletin said the 76-year-old pope's recovery was "fully satisfactory" and that he was gradually resuming his daily activities.

Doctors said the surgery was needed because of intestinal problems that had brought on bouts of fever since December. The Vatican blamed the pope's weakened condition over the past months on an inflamed appendix.

During his appearance at the window, John Paul kept his trembling left hand out of sight.

Vatican officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said Parkinson's may be a likely diagnosis. Parkinson's is a progressive neurological disorder that can be slowed by medicine.

# Americans give more to charity, but growing numbers give nothing

**WASHINGTON (AP)** - Americans who gave to charity contributed an average of 10 percent more last year than in 1993, but more households gave nothing, a study says.

The average contribution per household was \$1,017, a rise of \$89 after the 1993 figure is adjusted to take inflation into account.

That increase was the first since 1989, when the average household gave \$1,201 in inflation-adjusted dollars.

Sixty-nine percent of those surveyed reported that their households gave to charity last year - down from 73 percent who said they gave in 1993 and the lowest rate of giving in eight years.

Americans also expressed growing distrust over how charities use their money. The percentage who disagreed with the statement "most charitable organizations are honest and ethical in their use of funds" has increased from 20 percent in 1990 to 31 percent this year.

The study, the fifth of its kind since 1987, was based on face-to-face interviews by the Gallup Organization of 2,617 adults this spring.

The survey had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. It was conducted for Independent Sector, a coalition representing 800 voluntary organizations, foundations and corporate giving programs.

Those surveyed said they gave 2.2 percent of their household income to charity, compared with 2.1 percent reported in 1993.

# Study: Pre-menstrual women run suicide risk

**LONDON (Reuters)** - Almost one in 10 sufferers of pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS) have tried to take their own lives, a 33 percent rise over the past 11 years, a British study to be released today said.

The survey by the Women's Nutritional Advisory Service (WNAS) showed that just over half had contemplated suicide at least once and more than three in four felt violent and aggressive in the 14 days leading up to their period.

The study is based on interviews with 500 women, who showed moderate to severe symptoms of PMS and follows a similar survey 11 years ago by the WNAS, which specializes in treating symptoms.

The group estimates 10 million women of child-bearing age suffer from PMS, commonly known as pre-menstrual tension.

Of these six million are said to suffer moderate to severe PMS and are plagued by depression, anxiety, mood swings and loss of libido. Some 99 percent of women said their symptoms had an adverse effect on their home-life.

British survey: Male smokers die earlier

**LONDON (Reuters)** - More than half of British men who start smoking in their teens and continue to smoke throughout their life will not live past 73, a major study on the effect of smoking said last week.

The 15-year study, funded by the British Heart Foundation and covering 7,735 men, showed that 78 percent of those who have never

smoked are alive at 73 while only 42 percent of those who were smoking before they were 20 would survive to that age.

"Our analyses suggest that most of the difference in life expectancy between lifelong smokers and those who have never smoked is due to smoking itself," the authors of the report from London's Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine said.

They said their survey provided the first estimate of life expectancy according to smoking habits for a representative sample of British men. The average life expectancy of men in Britain is about 73. For women it is 78.

One of the messages from the survey was that smoking increased the risk of death from lung cancer, coronary heart disease, stroke, respiratory disease and other diseases, they said.

Of the 7,735 men screened, 76 percent had at one time smoked cigarettes. The survey showed 12.7 percent started when they were over 20 and only 1.3 percent when aged over 30. Twenty-one percent had never smoked cigarettes, a pipe or cigars.

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**MANAGERS COMPLAIN OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD, STRESS**

HALF of all managers complain of "information overload" which increases already high levels of stress and can lead to ill health, an international survey showed yesterday.

The "Dying for Information?" survey showed managers are caught in an executive dilemma in the age of faxes, voice-mail, E-mail and the Internet.

They feel they cannot operate efficiently without high levels of information. But this heavy load of often irrelevant data affects their efficiency and clogs the corporate machine.

Four out of 10 managers say their working environment is extremely stressful on a day-to-day basis and 94 percent do not believe the situation will improve.

"Unless we can discover ways of staying afloat amidst the surging torrents of information we may end up drowning in them," psychologist Dr. David Lewis said in a foreword to the survey.

The survey of 1,300 managers was conducted in Britain, the US, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

It was commissioned from Britain's Benchmark Research by Reuters Business Information, part of international news and information organization Reuters Holdings Plc.

Time-wasting, delaying important business decisions, tension and in some cases illness can be traced to information overload.

Information Fatigue Syndrome is now part of an executive's life,

**ROBERT WOODWARD**

**LONDON**

according to Lewis. Having too much information can be just as "dangerous" as having too little.

Symptoms include paralysis of analytical capacity, increased anxiety and self-doubt, and a tendency to blame others.

"Research shows that when compelled to choose among a series of options, in the face of vast amounts of potentially important information and against the clock, we move into a state of excessive stress."

"The inevitable outcomes of this hyper-aroused psychological condition are foolish decisions and flawed conclusions," said Lewis, a member of the International Stress

Management Association.

The key findings of the survey were as follows:

- 25 percent say they require an enormous amount of information for their job responsibilities; another 65 percent require a lot of information.
- 31 percent receive enormous amounts of unsolicited information.
- 49 percent feel they are often unable to handle the volumes of information received.
- 38 percent waste substantial time trying to locate the right information.
- 47 percent say collection of information distracts them from their main job responsibilities.
- 48 percent believe the Internet will be a prime cause of information overload over the next two years.
- 41 percent of managers agree their

working environment is extremely stress on a day-to-day basis

94 percent do not believe the situation will improve

Of those who reported suffering from information overload, 43 percent are believed to suffer from ill health as a direct consequence of Information Fatigue Syndrome.

Half take work home or work late as a result of having to deal with too much information and 61 percent report that their personal relationships have suffered.

To deal with information overload, companies should introduce better training to help managers separate primary from secondary information, improve communication skills and introduce better filtering of information, Lewis said. (Reuters)

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by Dvora Waysman

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**MANAGERS COMPLAIN OF INFORMATION OVERLOAD, STRESS**

HALF of all managers complain of "information overload" which increases already high levels of stress and can lead to ill health, an international survey showed yesterday.

The "Dying for Information?" survey showed managers are caught in an executive dilemma in the age of faxes, voice-mail, E-mail and the Internet.

They feel they cannot operate efficiently without high levels of information. But this heavy load of often irrelevant data affects their efficiency and clogs the corporate machine.

Four out of 10 managers say their working environment is extremely stressful on a day-to-day basis and 94 percent do not believe the situation will improve.

"Unless we can discover ways of staying afloat amidst the surging torrents of information we may end up drowning in them," psychologist Dr. David Lewis said in a foreword to the survey.

The survey of 1,300 managers was conducted in Britain, the US, Australia, Singapore and Hong Kong.

It was commissioned from Britain's Benchmark Research by Reuters Business Information, part of international news and information organization Reuters Holdings Plc.

Time-wasting, delaying important business decisions, tension and in some cases illness can be traced to information overload.

Information Fatigue Syndrome is now part of an executive's life,

**ROBERT WOODWARD**

**LONDON**

according to Lewis. Having too much information can be just as "dangerous" as having too little.

Symptoms include paralysis of analytical capacity, increased anxiety and self-doubt, and a tendency to blame others.

"Research shows that when compelled to choose among a series of options, in the face of vast amounts of potentially important information and against the clock, we move into a state of excessive stress."

"The inevitable outcomes of this hyper-aroused psychological condition are foolish decisions and flawed conclusions," said Lewis, a member of the International Stress

Management Association.

The key findings of the survey were as follows:

- 25 percent say they require an enormous amount of information for their job responsibilities; another 65 percent require a lot of information.
- 31 percent receive enormous amounts of unsolicited information.
- 49 percent feel they are often unable to handle the volumes of information received.
- 38 percent waste substantial time trying to locate the right information.
- 47 percent say collection of information distracts them from their main job responsibilities.
- 48 percent believe the Internet will be a prime cause of information overload over the next two years.
- 41 percent of managers agree their

working environment is extremely stress on a day-to-day basis

94 percent do not believe the situation will improve

Of those who reported suffering from information overload, 43 percent are believed to suffer from ill health as a direct consequence of Information Fatigue Syndrome.

Half take work home or work late as a result of having to deal with too much information and 61 percent report that their personal relationships have suffered.

To deal with information overload, companies should introduce better training to help managers separate primary from secondary information, improve communication skills and introduce better filtering of information, Lewis said. (Reuters)

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מלחמה על האויב



# Iran, Iraq loom behind latest Kurd fighting

ZAKHO, Iraq (Reuters) - Anti-Baghdad Kurdish warlord Jalal Talabani won back more territory from a rival militia in northern Iraq yesterday in fighting that threatened to draw in bitter rivals Iran and Iraq.

"At the moment they are in control of all of Sulaimaniya province," Abdul Aziz Rajah, a spokesman for the pro-Baghdad Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), acknowledged.

He repeated accusations that Iranian forces were hacking Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) fighters.

"They came in [to northern Iraq] supported by tanks and field artillery," he told Reuters in the Iraqi town of Zakho.

Officials from the pro-Baghdad KDP, meanwhile, stopped over in Turkey, bound for Washington in search of diplomatic backing against what the group says is an Iranian "invasion" of north Iraq.

"We will discuss that there," Sami Abdurrahman, a KDP leader, said before a meeting with Turkish officials.

Abdurrahman, Kurdish chief-tan Massoud Barzani's close aide, heads a delegation due to meet US officials in Washington tomorrow.

He said Iran had sent around 13,000 Revolutionary Guards, arms and ammunition into northern Iraq to spearhead the PUK drive, Tehran denies the charges.

The State Department called on the Kurdish groups to stop fighting and urged Baghdad and Tehran to stay on the sidelines.

"We are calling on both the PUK and the KDP to end the fighting," spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "We don't believe Kurdish interests will be promoted by a continuation of fighting between them."

"We hope both Iran and Iraq will stay out of the fighting," he added. The US has operated a "dual containment" policy against Tehran and Baghdad since the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war to ensure neither side gets the upper hand in regional disputes.

The Iraqi government appeared to have boosted its chances in the north in August when its forces helped erstwhile foe Barzani capture most of the rugged region in a lightning push.

Talabani struck back on Sunday, retaking Iraqi Kurdistan's biggest city, Sulaimaniya. UN sources said his guerrillas had since recaptured two main towns.

PUK rebels "seem to be advancing," one UN official told Reuters in Baghdad by telephone from the of Arbil. "They are in Degala and Koi Sanjaq. Fighting is continuing and both sides are using artillery and rocket launchers."

Talabani said his forces would not top the capture of Sulaimaniya with a push against Arbil, administrative capital of the predominantly-Kurdish north.

"We don't have a plan now to do that, because the city is surrounded by Iraqi tanks," he said in an interview with the London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat*. Iranian officials denied any role in the latest fighting.

## ANWAR FARUQI KABUL, Afghanistan

TALIBAN soldiers were dug in along their shrinking frontline north of Kabul yesterday after losing two strategic towns to former government soldiers.

Taliban troops were driven from Jebul Siraj, the headquarters of former military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud, in what Kabul's new Taliban rulers were calling a "strategic retreat" to avoid bloodshed.

A Taliban spokesman in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar said about 4,000 Taliban fighters from elsewhere in Afghanistan are to be redeployed to Kabul.

Mullah Eid Mohammed Wahadyar said Kabul's new Taliban rulers would launch a counter attack against government troops once the reinforcements arrive, sometime in the next two days.

"I assure you that Massoud's forces cannot recapture Kabul," said Information Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul.

"We want to fight with them where there are no civilians, for example around Baghram," military air base, about 50 kilometers north of Kabul, he said.

Truckloads of Taliban soldiers headed out of Kabul toward the frontline, north of the city. There was sporadic fighting on the outskirts, believed to be more of the hit-and-run attacks by former government troops.

The loss of Jebul Siraj, about 95 kilometers north of Kabul, is the first big setback for the Taliban army.

They no longer are within striking distance of the Panjshir Valley, a stronghold of the former government and are out of range of the



Islamic Taliban militiamen burn films in a bonfire in front of downtown Kabul's Zaynab cinema yesterday. The militia has banned music and television and imposed Islam Shariah law on the city.

strategic Salang Highway, controlled by northern warlord, Rashid Dostum.

The army of former Islamic seminarians also withdrew from Charikar, about 30 kilometers south of Jebul Siraj, putting former government soldiers in easy range of Baghram air force base.

Muttaqi confirmed the loss of

both Jebul Siraj and Charikar to former government soldiers, but said the withdrawal was ordered by the Taliban administration to avoid a bloody showdown.

However civilians being treated in hospitals in Kabul say the fighting north of the capital has been intense. In recent days hospital officials say they have been receiving

about 30 wounded a day.

Many of the wounded are suffering from shrapnel and gunshot wounds.

"The hospital is full," said Dr. Mohammed Qasim at Kabul's Karte Se hospital. "Before we would get the occasional mine accident, but now all we see are injuries from the fighting up north."

Since losing the capital of Kabul to the Taliban two weeks ago, former government soldiers have been using guerrilla-style attacks to stop their advance northward.

From Kabul's northern suburb of Khair Khana the relentless firing of heavy artillery could be heard as the battle raged just 15 kilometers away. (AP)

# Belgian sex case investigator removed for alleged bias

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - Belgium's top court removed the magistrate leading enquiries into the country's child sex abuse and murder scandal from the case because he had a free dish of pasta from a group helping parents of missing children.

The ruling yesterday by the Cour de Cassation was greeted by howls of derision from some 700 protesters outside the court, and will further undermine public confidence in a legal system that has been reeling under repeated shocks in recent months.

"I am disgusted. I don't want to be Belgian anymore," one demonstrator told BRTN television. "There are tears in my eyes. I am ashamed," said another.

Virtually no one in Belgium wanted Jean-Marc Connerotte removed from the case, including the country's top prosecutor Eliane Lickendael, who reluctantly sought his removal from the case because he had breached the letter of the law.

Under Belgium's criminal law system, the investigating magistrate must be an impartial detective, building up a case file both for and

against prosecution. The public prosecutor then decides whether the case should go to trial.

"The decision was made... given that the impartiality of magistrates was a fundamental rule," President Oscar Straenard told a packed court as he announced the decision yesterday.

But Connerotte's removal seems certain to fuel conspiracy theories among Belgians of a cover-up attempt by people in high places, touched by the paedophilia scandal.

Police have so far uncovered the bodies of four missing young girls and rescued two others who had been sexually abused. Thirteen people, including chief suspect and convicted rapist Marc Dutroux, have been arrested over the affair.

An emotional Paul Marchal, whose daughter An died at the hands of the Dutroux gang, said: "It is the beginning of the end... justice is dead."

Lawyers for Dutroux and businessman Miehlel Nihoul argued Connerotte had shown bias by attending a dinner arranged by the Marc et Corine parental support group, at which the two rescued victims of Dutroux were

also present.

"For 14 months they let Dutroux and Nihoul run free. This decision is like spitting on the tombs of Julie and Melissa," Gino Russo, the father of Melissa, told reporters.

Eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo disappeared in June 1995. Their bodies were found two months ago, entombed on a property owned by Dutroux. They had starved to death.

Parents of dead and missing children did, however, welcome the ruling that responsibility for the investigation will stay in Neufchateau under regional public prosecutor Michel Bourlet.

The Dutroux affair has transformed Connerotte, 48, recently married and with a daughter, from a virtual unknown into a national hero in just two months.

Connerotte and Bourlet are widely seen as the only honest investigators capable of bringing to a conclusion an affair which has shocked Belgians as much for the bungling work of some investigators as for the horror of the crimes themselves.

# UN protests to Turks over killing of Cypriot

NICOSIA (Reuters) - UN peacekeepers in Cyprus protested to Turkish forces yesterday after the "deplorable" killing of a 58-year-old Greek Cypriot civilian who had crossed into the north of the divided island.

The sharp words from the United Nations Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) followed the killing of Petros Kakouli on Sunday on the edge of the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state. It raised to five - four Greek Cypriots and one Turkish Cypriot - the number of people killed along the buffer zone since June.

"UNFICYP is deeply concerned that once again an innocent life was lost as the result of the deplorable and unnecessary use of lethal force," the force said in a statement.

"The force commander of UNFICYP has, in the strongest possible terms, requested the commander of the Turkish forces in

Cyprus that he instruct the soldiers under his command not to shoot unless their own lives are threatened."

Turkey has 30,000 troops in the north of the island, where the Turkish Cypriots live.

Sir David Hannay, Britain's special representative on the Cyprus problem, added his condemnation of the killing of the retired fireman after a 90-minute meeting with Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides.

"Anything that can be done to make incidents like that less likely to happen would be thoroughly worthwhile," said Hannay, who arrived on Sunday night to continue efforts to end the 22-year-old division of the island.

Cypriot government spokesman Yiannakis Cassoulides called the killing "unwarranted, premeditated, carried out in cold

blood."

Kakouli's body, which had been left where he fell for about four hours, was returned to the Greek Cypriot side yesterday. Relatives said he had been shot three times.

A post mortem revealed the fatal shot hit Kakouli in the chest. "I cannot say whether they were fired at close distance," pathologist Petros Vanezis told journalists. "The range is difficult to say. There is no gunshot wound directly on the skin," he said.

Another post mortem carried out by Turkish Cypriot doctors earlier found Kakouli had died of a single gunshot wound which punctured his lung and heart.

Turkish Cypriot officials said the man had gone 200 meters into the self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state, ignored three warnings to stop and was shot while trying to escape.

# Report: Scientist discovers sign of life in second Mars meteorite

NEW YORK (AP) - A NASA scientist has discovered what may be signs of life in a second meteorite from Mars, CBS News reported.

Johnson Space Center researcher David McKay told *The CBS Evening News* last week that he spotted "possible cell structures, in at least one other meteorite."

McKay, other NASA scientists and university researchers first reported in August that chemical, microscopic and organic tests of tiny golden-colored bits of a meteorite suggest there must have been microscopic life on Mars some 3.6 billion years ago. The newest sign of life was found in a rock billions of years younger than the first. McKay said, noting that "Most of the lifetime of Mars is in this range between the two meteorites."

# Austria blue-collar vote shifts to far right

VIENNA (Reuters) - Austria's far right won huge support from blue-collar voters in a European election and Chancellor Franz Vranitzky's Social Democrats should heed their worries rather than brush them aside, analysts said yesterday.

The triumphant nationalist Freedom Party scored an all-time high in Sunday's election, pushing its support to 27.6 percent, just a few thousand votes behind the Social Democrats who slumped to an historic low of 29.1 percent.

The message from voters was two-fold - they are angry at an austerity budget that has cut welfare benefits and raised taxes, largely to ensure Austria meets criteria set out in the Maastricht treaty for planned European economic integration

and a single currency.

And the voters who backed the far right, many of them workers scared about their futures, are deeply worried that mounting job losses, and bankruptcies and takeovers will get worse as Austria integrates into the European Union.

"We have estimated that 50 percent of the blue-collar vote this time went to the Freedom Party," Rudolf Bretschneider, chief analyst at Vienna's Fessl research institute said.

"It is clear that skepticism over the EU has increased in Austria over the past two years," he told Reuters.

The fact that far-right leader Joerg Haider loses his Euro-skepticism with anti-immigrant invec-

# In prison reunion with mother, Chinese dissident claims innocence in coup plot

BEIJING (AP) - A former student leader in China's democracy movement told his mother Monday that charges that he plotted to overthrow the government were fabricated.

Wang Dan was held for 16 1/2 months before his family was told last week that he had been charged. His visit with his mother was the first time he had been allowed to see a family member since he was detained.

Wang said he had done nothing wrong, and the charges against him were groundless, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said in a statement.

"Of course he has done nothing to violate Chinese law," his father, Wang Xian, said in an interview. He said his son was coughing often, and that the family was worried about his health.

Wang suffers from an inflamed prostate gland and other ailments, and is physically weak, the rights group said.

Wang was a Beijing University who helped lead the demonstrations that swept Beijing in 1989. He was No. 1 on the government's most-wanted list after the military violently quelled the protests in Beijing in June of that year.

He was convicted of agitation against the government and served four years in prison. After he was released in 1993, Wang again worked for political reform. Police took him into detention last year after he organized the signing of a petition calling for freedom and tolerance.

Wang faces a minimum of 10 years in prison if convicted. In China's justice system, a guilty verdict is virtually assured before the trial begins.

Wang's mother and his lawyer discussed his defense case with

him, the rights group said. Last Thursday, the Beijing Municipal Intermediate Court gave Wang's family 24 hours to find a lawyer.

The trial was expected to be held soon. However, a court spokesman declined yesterday to say when it would start.

A New York-based group, Human Rights in China, citing

family members, said the charges against Wang accused him of publishing essays overseas criticizing the Chinese government; setting up an aid program for dissidents released from prison who could not find work; receiving loans and aid from abroad; and accepting an offer to study at the University of California in Berkeley.

# Message found in bottle 82 years on

PETERHEAD, Scotland (Reuters) - Scottish trawlerman John Forman thought little of it when his boat dredged up an old bottle from the seabed - until he looked inside and found a note written more than 82 years ago.

Forman said last week that the bottle had been thrown into the sea in 1914 by scientists working for the Scottish Fishery Board as part of an experiment to chart currents around the British coast.

Forman found the bottle while towing a trawl net 50 km east of the Shetland Isles off the northern coast of Scotland. Inside was a yellowing card offering a one pound reward to whoever returned the bottle so scientists could use its position to work out which way the tidal streams flow in the North Sea.

Forman said he would be claiming the money.

# Algerian president: Country to 'decide its future' in vote

PARIS (Reuters) - Algerian President Liamine Zeroual announced yesterday that a referendum to change the constitution to ban political parties based on religion, and confirm Islam as Algeria's state religion, would be held on November 28.

He made the statement in a speech broadcast on state-run Algerian television.

Zeroual's 30-minute address, a rare nationwide broadcast by the former general, followed a week's upsurge of violence in the North African country in which at least 60 people were killed and more than 70 wounded.

"Once again and through your vote in the referendum on November 28 you are called to

underline our national future," Zeroual said, referring back to Algeria's first multi-candidate presidential election last November.

For that election, Algeria mobilized at least 100,000 security force members to protect the near 13 million electorate against threats of death and disruption issued by armed Moslem guerrillas.

"Your answer is your choice in the search to develop a multi-party democracy with unity and with stability," Zeroual said.

The president, flanked by the national flag, repeated a promise that a general election would be held in the first half of next year.

He also recalled the main points that would figure on the voting paper.

These were that Islam, the Arabic language, the Berber language and identity were the heritage of all Algerians and must be kept out of politics.

"By your vote on this you will put an end to any maneuvers to undermine national unity," he said.

The move to ban the use of religion as a political weapon had long been expected after nearly five years of conflict between security forces and Moslem fundamentalists in which at least 50,000 people have died.

The violence broke out shortly after the authorities in January 1992 canceled a general election in which Islamic fundamentalists had taken a commanding lead.

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Read on

ELI BIRNBAUM

MOST of us like nothing better than to pick up a steaming cup of coffee, munch on a piece of cake and relax while turning the pages of the daily paper.

Play an identical scenario with a good novel, soft music and an ice-cold glass of lemonade, and you've got the same idea.

Now think about doing the same - but replace your couch or armchair with a hardback swivel office chair and your computer. Something doesn't sit right (aside from you).

Despite all the pundits waving signs that read, "The end is near" there is no way your computer can or will supplant your paper or that good book.

Part of the great reading experience is the comforting, tactile feeling of a book. It's turning the pages, maybe glancing ahead to see how many more you have left before the climax.

How could staring at a computer screen ever be as satisfying as casually skimming a full page of newspaper, your eyes roaming at will over the headlines? Then there's that lovely crisp sound you get when you fold the paper any way you like and read articles at whim...

Without waxing too poetic - reading off paper is one of life's quiet, simple joys. It uses most of our senses, adding meaning (or so we believe) to our understanding of what's going on in the great wide world.

What about computers in the academic field? Again, one cannot avoid mentioning the pleasing role of paper, remembering that quick locating of a relevant paragraph, the firm highlighting with the ubiquitous yellow marker. Try scrolling down with your mouse, you say? It's no substitute at all.

One of my secret enjoyments while doing research was having five books on my living room table, all open at the same time, savoring the excitement of discovering similarities or discrepancies between the various texts. When you're working with a computer there's no way you can jump back and forth between pages, keeping your finger on comparative texts.

When I factor in the eye-strain involved in reading a computer monitor, the back-strain that ensues from prolonged sitting in one position in an uncomfortable chair, my vote goes to paper every time - well, almost.

HONESTY compels me to admit that the Internet has tremendous potential, especially in the field of Jewish education.

First, it can reach thousands of people everywhere who would not normally have access to such wealth of material and debate. Second, it can serve as a bridge between (Jewish) communities and schools worldwide, strengthening the Israel-Diaspora partnership.

Third, it is (my foregoing lament notwithstanding) virtually irreplaceable in research. Fourth, it is the cheapest and most efficient method of allowing ideas and concepts to flow freely. It can be utilized to expand existing educational methods and systems and create new ones.

With over 2,000 people from 21 countries taking courses at the Jewish University In Cyberspace and dozens of high schools cooperating on joint projects worldwide, who can get an MBA from a University in Scotland over the net, we cannot help but recognize and internalize this revolution.

But... will the computer replace paper? Only marginally, in my opinion, since most of us will simply press on the print button anyway when we find what we want.

Will the computer replace my morning paper or my latest Ludlum novel? No way.

Will I ever change my mind? Maybe, when I can stretch out on my couch, a pillow behind my neck, holding my computer in one hand and a glass of iced tea in the other.

The writer, a psychologist, is the initiator of the Jewish Agency Internet project.

POSTSCRIPT

LONDON DOG-LOVERS who let their pets foul the streets are being targeted by a cinema ad campaign showing a man defecating on the sidewalk.

AS YOU KNOW, I CAN'T CONTROL A FREE PRESS...



Good cop, bad cop

BARBARA AMIEL

WHAT is it about Israel that brings out the mendacity and hypocrisy in politicians and journalists that few other issues tap?

"A government of hardliners has only itself to blame for the violence," read the headline on Jeffrey Simpson's *Globe and Mail* column, referring to the Likud government.

The words were not inaccurate. The only people who do not have complete freedom of worship on the Temple Mount are the Jews.

Until 1967, Jews were forbidden by the chief rabbis to set foot on the Temple Mount in case by accident they stepped on the sacred spot known as the Holy of Holies.

But since 1967 it has been possible to designate "safe" areas, and groups of religious Jews have petitioned to go on the Temple Mount.

Permission has been refused, lest they offend Moslem sensibilities by opening the Hasmonean Tunnel that runs near the Arab mosques on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem.

It has "humiliated" Yasser Arafat by demolishing an Arab building in the Old City of Jerusalem and by delaying implementation of the Oslo accords.

Netanyahu waited too long to meet Arafat. How can these charges be answered?

The tunnel does not endanger a single holy site, running as it does next to the Western Wall (the Jews' most holy site) and opening on the Via Dolorosa, one of the Christians' most holy sites.

The Temple Mount, which houses two Arab mosques next to the tunnel, is administered by a self-appointed Moslem body, the Waqf. The Waqf agreed in principle to the opening of the tunnel in exchange for use of a cave as a mosque.

That site is now in use and the Waqf is (illegally) building a permanent mosque in it.

The real "provocation" to holy sites has been entirely by the Moslems who, during the Jordanian rule over eastern

Jerusalem, systematically destroyed all evidence of the First and Second Temples, as well as desecrating synagogues, using Jewish tombstones for latrines and building the Intercontinental Hotel atop the Mount of Olives.

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Jerusalem, systematically destroyed all evidence of the First and Second Temples, as well as desecrating synagogues, using Jewish tombstones for latrines and building the Intercontinental Hotel atop the Mount of Olives.

A taxing victory

IN winning the marathon struggle in the cabinet on Sunday night and ordering a reexamination - which will probably mean rejection - of a major element of the Brodet Committee's recommendations, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu succeeded in imposing his authority at the expense of that of Finance Minister Dan Meridor. Coming a fortnight before the Knesset discusses the government's sweeping NIS 4.9 billion budget cuts for 1997, this victory will only bear fruit if Netanyahu can restore a proper working relationship with Meridor.

The Brodet Committee members, backed by Meridor, tried to present their recommendations on reforming the capital markets as a take-it-or-leave-it package deal, which the government had to accept or reject in its entirety. Netanyahu correctly resisted the pressure implicit in such a presentation; the government, which bears responsibility for economic decisions, has the right and duty to scrutinize recommendations on an item-by-item basis. However, Netanyahu did this at the cost of alienating Meridor, whom he still needs to lead the government's economic program.

The cabinet vote focused on the committee's recommendation to tax short-term savings plans. While not rejected outright, this suggestion was packed off to a bureaucratic junkyard, to be reexamined by a new, three-member committee.

A number of important proposals in the Brodet Committee's report were approved, such as allowing Individual Retirement Accounts, limiting the extent of government-designated bonds, establishing a secondary mortgage market, and increasing the range of investment options available to the local investor. All of these are in keeping with the Netanyahu government's declared policies of decreasing the government's role in the economy and moving towards greater economic freedom.

Indeed, had the cabinet approved the taxation of short-term savings, it would have reduced personal flexibility, and in suggesting such a move, the Brodet Committee essentially shot itself in the foot.

Israeli investors have always lacked lucrative, long-term financial instruments, whether in the form of freely negotiable long-term bonds, or ample supply of blue-chip stocks, or freely accessible foreign securities. Government-designated bonds and propped-up pension funds have been the instruments luring long-term

savers. To be fair, the inflationary economic environment made short-term investment plans unattractive until relatively recently, when the Bank of Israel's support of high interest rates, in response to the harmful fiscal policies undertaken by the Labor government, suddenly created a situation in which short-term savings could keep ahead of inflation. This, coupled with a general dissatisfaction with long-term economic prospects - also a reaction to fiscal policies - caused the massive flight away from provident funds and government bonds and to short-term plans, and led to the creation of the Brodet Committee in the first place.

Long-term savings and the health of the nation's financial markets are important for the economy, and a correction of the problem is indeed called for. Instead of making recommendations that would deal with the roots of this problem, the committee took a typical bureaucratic tack and recommended "forcing" citizens to prefer long-term investments. It proposed offering provident-fund tax breaks only when the funds are redeemed at retirement age, increasing tax exemptions on pensions, and punishing savings plans shorter than 10 years in duration by taxing the interest earned on them.

The committee's proposed scheme is also especially inflexible: To qualify for tax breaks under the committee's proposals, a savings plan would have to run for multiples of 10 years - once a 10-year plan has matured, an investor must either renew it for another 10 years or cash it in. Reinvesting the money in a short-term plan would mean paying tax on the interest.

This recommendation, instead of encouraging savings, could boomerang and reduce overall savings. Tax breaks alone are not likely to persuade people to lock away their money for a decade, and imposing taxes on short-term plans will make those unattractive. The public's savings level has dropped over recent years, itself a very negative sign for the economy. The last thing it needs is policies that discourage savings.

Having put off the Brodet Committee's recommendations on taxing savings, Netanyahu has shown he can take a stand in his cabinet and win. The question now is whether he can also smooth over the finance minister's ruffled feathers, and deal with the root problems currently plaguing the economy: Cutting the deficit, and initiating structural reforms in the capital market.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MEDIA AND THE TRUTH

Sir, - Any Israeli looking for objectivity these days has to be a masochist to watch the news on the BBC, CNN, and Sky networks, or, I'm ashamed to say, our own Israeli channels. The verbal and visual distortions, simplifications and inaccurate reporting of recent events are hard to take. Is this evidence of bias (anti-Israel, in the case of the overseas networks, anti-government in the case of our own media) or just sloppy journalism?

Let us take one seemingly trivial example. We are repeatedly told that Netanyahu opened the Hasmonean Tunnel, and that this action triggered off the violent Palestinian reaction. The operative phrase "the opening of the tunnel" is untrue and misleading. It postulates a new initiative; that a previously closed tunnel has now been opened. The reality (as I, and thousands of others who have walked its length during the past year can attest) is that tunnel is an existing facility, a well-used tourist attraction and instructive archaeological site opened to the public by the previous government. What is new is merely an exit at the far end. I have been waiting impatiently to learn how this new exit onto a commercial street unilaterally alters the status of Jerusalem, or constitutes a threat to the holy sites, or is an affront to the sensibilities of Islam.

If we get the basic facts wrong, how can we interpret them correctly? Misrepresentation of this fact by the Palestinians was the essential inflammatory material for inciting the mobs to violence, and a clever covert pre-planned action designed to reap political benefit. Its continued use serves as a convenient platform for those engaged in Israel - or Netanyahu-bashing. Such pervasions of the truth, moreover, certainly do not help us understand a complex, volatile and dangerous situation.

When one is presented with the canard that Netanyahu opened a tunnel (one network went further into fantasy-land, and said that he built the tunnel), and then link it to another so-called "fact," that this tunnel threatens the integrity of the Moslem holy sites (upon which, in truth, it nowhere impinges), then the Palestinian explosion of rage can be given, indeed has been given, a gloss of reasonableness, even justification. But if it were known that these facts are pure fiction, then perhaps a more critical reaction to the outrageous behavior of the Palestinians might have been forthcoming.

I don't always expect truth from the protagonists. But the media have an obligation to present the truth. They may find that it does not jibe well with their preconceptions, and does not serve their own agendas. But the media have a public responsibility; they may not, without gravely undermining their integrity, take refuge behind the aphorism ascribed to Samuel Goldwyn: "My mind is made up, don't confuse me with the facts."

GILBERT HERBERT

WASHINGTON VICTORY

Sir, - Despite the Opposition's hopeful assertions, Binyamin Netanyahu did not go to Canossa. He did not even go to Munich, as President Clinton is not yet ready to play the role of Neville Chamberlain. Netanyahu won a diplomatic victory in Washington because he put Israel's national interest and security before all other considerations and insisted - unlike Rabin and Peres - that agreements signed with Arabs bind both sides. The Oslo-Cairo Agreements are bad agreements. But they provide for a formal abrogation of the Palestinian Covenant by the Palestine National Council and for the extraditing of Palestinians who kill Israelis. Moreover, they confer no rights whatever on the PLO in Jerusalem. It seems that Shimon Peres, Ehud Barak and

DRIVING IN BRITAIN

Sir, - Having just returned from the UK, I must compare the driving behavior in that country and ours.

During three weeks of our stay which included residing on one of the busiest roads in London and traveling extensively in the countryside, we hardly heard a "hoooter". Drivers on the highways stay in their lanes and although the speed limit is higher, one does not feel threatened. The heavy vehicles do not deviate from one or two lanes and neither do they exceed their permitted speed. One is aware of traffic-police presence all the time.

Despite sporadic reports of road rage (symptom of frustration of British society), the effect of the "road calming" projects within the towns is apparent.

Clearly defined markings, humps and a whole variety of innovations including signs about speed and warnings of cameras, are influencing the public at large and drivers in particular.

It is patently clear that the authorities in Israel have a lot to learn from Britain. Let us hope that Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy's timely visit to the UK will bear fruit in the coming year.

ZELDA HARRIS, Spokesperson, Metuna, Netanya.

NINA BERNSTEIN

Sir, - You report on October 1 that Nina Bernstein, 34, canceled her visit to Jerusalem to chair the judges' committee for the International Leonard Berestein Competition.

Her late father, in whose memory the yearly competitions are held in Jerusalem, braved Arab guns in 1947 (he was 29 years old then) and conducted the then Palestine Orchestra following dangerous trips from Tel Aviv. In 1948, he co-ordinated the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (and played the piano) in Beersheba, just liberated. In 1967, he led the orchestra in a memorable concert on Mount Scopus after the Six Day War, with Jordanian soldiers still in sight - to quote just a few instances in the life of Nina's unforgettable father. Apart from his regular guest visits, Leonard Bernstein was always present when Israel was in danger or in serious trouble.

PROF. PETER E. GRADENWITZ, Tel Aviv.

لماذا من الاصل



# Mad dogs and Israelis

EMILY HAUSER

**A**n upper middle-class couple, a corrupt cop, a newly religious soccer fan, the owner of a street-side kiosk, a pimp and his prostitute – what could these people possibly have in common? These characters, along with several others, are fellow travelers through the urban night (which achieves virtual-character status itself) in the recently released comedy *Dogs Are Color-Blind* (*Klavim Lo Novhim Beyarok*), a sort of Israeli *Short Cuts*, where everyone is somehow connected to everyone else and no one really is what they seem.

*Dogs Are Color-Blind* is the project of an upper-middle-class couple, Yohanan and Orna Raviv, who directed and produced the film, as well as adapting the script for the screen. The two have been working on the film for the past five years, and the local media have been in a buzz about it for nearly as long. *Dogs* follows the paths of a loose group of people as they wander through a series of offbeat circumstances in the course of a single night. Naomi and Tziki, a couple with serious communication problems, find their home has been robbed and, in the course of the evening and early-morning hours, meet, befriend and/or have sex with a veritable cross-section of Israeli society.



A married couple (Keren Mor and Dov Navoo) appeal to their strange, newly religious friend (Sharon Raginianno) in the local movie 'Dogs Are Color-Blind.'

As the night wears on, much of what Tziki and Naomi take for

granted is thrown into question and very little is as it first seems. Is the cop a good guy, or a potential peeping Tom? Does Tziki frequent prostitutes – or does Naomi have a sideline herself as a call girl? Is the pimp scum, or a well-meaning, if weak, pal? And will Naomi ever have an orgasm with anyone?

Israeli cinema is legitimate – the audience's trust has to be rebuilt, and they have to feel comfortable, to feel that they're sitting through a real movie.

order to suspend disbelief and enjoy themselves. The other message, Orna says with a certain disappointment, was meant to be optimism. "After the 1992 elections, we finally felt as if we were living in the right place, that the Middle East was the right place to be."

up for a number of Israeli Oscars – but left the October 8 ceremony with barely a mention, overshadowed as it was by another recent release, *St. Clara*. Only Dana Raz (who played the hooker-with-a-heart-of-gold Sophie) won, for best supporting actress.

# A 'Single Guy' raises his profile

**J**ONATHAN Silverman is keenly aware of the pros and cons of starring in a television series. The 29-year-old actor, who has appeared in some 18 movies and headlined on Broadway in Neil Simon's Tony Award-winning *Broadway Bound*, stars in the NBC comedy *The Single Guy*, in which he plays – who else? – a single guy. Silverman's Jonathan is a witty, articulate writer looking for his perfect soul mate.

community "based on the industry buzz and the fact the show has been given this prime slot. I have been offered all of these wonderful movies... movies I probably couldn't even get a meeting for two or three months ago."

# Emotions swing in revamped 'Land'

DANCE REVIEW  
ORA BRAFMAN

**Land of Rape and Honey** – Choreographers: Nir Ben-Gal and Liat Dror.

**R**ECENTLY, Ben-Gal and Dror reworked their latest piece that premiered at this year's Israel Festival, in a brave step that recognizes some of the communication problems they've encountered even with their most avid followers.

for a split second until your emotions swing like a pendulum with those recurrent contradictions. He takes you from a romantic autumn song, nostalgic and sublime, to the gutters of humiliation, abasement and violent rape. At times it is appalling and at times it is very funny. Often, you are riddled with the uncomfortable feeling as you can never be sure whether this mongrel is the real thing in disguise.

# Sheryl Crow: Techno tricks meet '70s songs

IN TUNE  
DAVID BRINN

Sheryl Crow  
SHERYL CROW (Helicon)  
Between the 1 and the 9  
PATTI ROTHBERG (NMC)

A Man and a Woman  
BELINDA CARLISLE (NMC)

**M**AINSTREAM rock is definitely being taken over by women. Whereas in the past, a Patti Smith or a Chrissie Hynde was a novel aberration in the male-dominated world, today you can't switch the dial without hearing another female rocker. From Alanis Morissette and Joan Osborne to Melissa Etheridge and PJ Harvey, the invisible separation that has always existed between male and female rock has been permanently erased.

immediately like classics – as if you've heard them before even as you're hearing them for the first time. Standouts include "Sweet Rosalyn," "Oh Marie" and "If it Makes You Happy."



Sheryl Crow's superstar status is confirmed by her new album.

Got the Beat." But all together, it spells boring. Aside from the spunky "California" with fitting back-up vocals from Brian Wilson, the album sounds bland and uninspired.

# Subtleties lost on Bernstein contest judges

**T**HE jury's verdict in the Leonard Bernstein International Oratorio and Song Competition brought into question its own criteria of evaluation. Soprano Kelly Nassief from the US, one of the laureates, was an obvious choice and she wisely chose to sing Beethoven's "Ah, Perfido."

Germany lovingly caressed the melodies and displayed lightning virtuosity in Telemann's Recorder Concerto. The more assertive Baroque transverse flute presented by Janet See from England in Vivaldi's *Il Gardellino* Concerto, highlighted this instrument's sonority.

times to very good effect. With new music director Yivul Zaliouk on the podium the Symphonette seems to become a more so-called serious ensemble and it shows in programs and music-making alike.

ever-popular violin concerto of Mendelssohn. There were no gimmicks here whatsoever, nor an attempt at a personal interpretation.

**A** DOUBLE bill of two consecutive Baroque music concerts, in one almost-too-long evening, celebrated the happy end of the Workshop for Early Music.

**I**T HAS been a while since the Ra'anana Symphonette Orchestra has played a truly classical program. Under previous music director Yeroham Scharovsky the orchestra always tended to lean towards the lighter classics, at

# Marriage, morality and midlife crises

THEATER REVIEW  
NAOMI DOUDAI

**T**HE very feminine Sylvia is a prime example of the female species ardently enamored of a married man. And she is played with charm, coyness, and subtlety by Anat Waxman, who shows as striking a talent as a comedienne as she has done in heavier roles in the past.

As anxiety over his extramarital capers mounts, she turns for help, first to Iris, an obsessively clean and irrational friend, and then to Sharon, a weirdo psychic consultant of ambivalent sex. Both roles are played in drag by Lior Ashkenazi with hilarious panache. In addition he plays Avner, a man Michael meets in the Park.

### TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

	THIS LAST WEEKS ON	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	RAMI KLEINSTEIN	COLLECTION HITMAN 7
#2	14	VIA	SHINAM
#3	30	SHLOMO ARTZI	TIME STOPS
#4	29	FITA	LIVE
#5	6	FRIENDS OF NATASHA	PARTY TIME II
#6	2	VIA	GUSH DANCE CLUB IV
#7	2	VIA	SHALOM HAVER
#8	40	VIA	JAGGED LITTLE PILL
#9	27	ALANIS MORISSETTE	TRAINSPOTTING
#10	11	OST	LAST RAIN - YA'IR ROZENBLUM
#11	15	VIA	TOP POWER '96
#12	14	VIA	THE SCORE
#13	21	FUGEES	NOW '94
#14	7	VIA	IT WAS WRITTEN
#15	NEW!	NAS	

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

Tuesday, October 15, 1996

Experts' panel to propose alternatives to Brodet's recommendations

DAVID HARRIS

AFTER hours of debate, the government decided early yesterday to establish a panel to investigate alternatives to the Brodet committee's plan to tax interest on short- and medium-term savings.

The cabinet approved the other recommendations in the report, which aims to encourage long-term investments.

The new team will comprise Treasury director general David Brodet, Moshe Leon, head of privatization in the Prime Minister's office, and an as yet unnamed representative of the Bank of Israel.

Finance Minister Dan Meridor refused to comment yesterday, when asked if he would resign in the wake of the cabinet vote on the recommendations.

Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky said yesterday he has every confidence in Meridor.

"I see no reason (for him) to resign," said Sharansky, who voted against accepting all Brodet's recommendations.

Prior to the cabinet's decision, Brodet said he would not stand down.

"I didn't resign in September, I haven't resigned during October, and I won't be resigning in November either," he said.

That, however, has not put an end to speculation about the career of the minister's future.

Sources in the Finance Ministry are suggesting Brodet will leave his post shortly and that his replacement will be the current Mifal Hapayis managing director, Shmuel Slavin.

Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) yesterday urged Brodet and Meridor not to resign.

"I hope Meridor will not take this personally," said Ravitz. "Brodet must realize the vote was not a lack of confidence in him personally."

Brodet flew to Turkey last night for a regional conference, a trip arranged well before the cabinet vote.

TASE unaffected by cabinet's vote on Brodet report

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv Stock Exchange's trading floors yesterday reflected financial market apathy in the face of the government's decision on the Brodet recommendations to reform the capital market.

The market was down slightly yesterday on very low turnover of less than NIS50 million. Some traders said the fact that nothing irregular occurred the day after the government's decision suggested the market expected the government to oppose the entire package.

Some analysts said it is difficult to analyze the market's reaction at this stage, since many investors are uncertain what was decided at the lengthy cabinet meeting.

"Nobody believed the recommendations would be adopted," said Yosef Gross, a professor at Tel Aviv University and head of a law firm concentrating on the capital market.

"The idea to tax interest on savings plans and short-term savings, and in this way to encourage people to go from one investment to another, was not an acceptable idea for anybody and, therefore, the first reaction of the government was against it," Gross said.

According to Gross the capital market moves in cycles of four or five years.

"Unless there is a real political change or a war or something else happens, we have to wait at least another year for a good year. Everything depends on negotiations with the Arabs.

It is impossible to draw any conclusions from the behavior of the stock market these days, said Yossi Nitzani, manager of capital markets at Economic Models.

Nitzani, who in the past served as general manager of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, explained that the light trading characteristic of the stock market

during the last few months reflects investors' nervousness and uncertainty.

While Nitzani is a supporter of the recommendations in the Brodet report, he does not think they are sufficient to revive the market.

"Even if all of the recommendations are implemented, they are minimalistic compared with the bad situation of the economy and the capital market.

"The capital market is very sensitive, and it is always easy to find an excuse why this isn't the appropriate time. When the market is high, nobody wants to hinder it. And when the market is low, nobody wants to worsen the slump," said Nitzani.

According to Nitzani, the key to the economy's recovery is a cut in the budget and interest rates.

Many investors do not understand what was decided at the cabinet meeting, said Zvi Stepak, general manager of the Meitav investment consultancy firm.

It is unclear, he said, whether the cabinet will go ahead with recommendations to reduce taxes on bonds and dividends, if the recommendation to tax short-term savings is finally rejected.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's opposition to accepting all the recommendations disappointed investors, said Stepak.

"If the government can't decide on something as mild as a small tax on saving plans, then what will happen when big issues have to be approved, like privatization or the budget cut, not to mention political moves," said Stepak.

Looking from the outside, I now side with the governor of the Bank of Israel (Jacob Frenkel, who opposed taxing short-term savings)." Sadan stopped short of calling for Brodet's resignation, but suggested it may be time for

recommendations, and Yali Edlestein (Immigration and Absorption) abstained. Sharansky spokesman Roman Polanski said the Minister had no doubt all the recommendations made economic sense, including the taxation of interest on short- and medium-term savings.

During the marathon cabinet discussion, said Polanski, there was a lack of detail on how the short- and medium-term issue would affect the markets, and on its social impact.

"Until one in the morning, we held professional discussions," Sharansky told reporters yesterday.

Edlestein last week telephoned the Jerusalem Post to say he would support Meridor and the Brodet proposals.

But if the government wants to proceed, it must be united. It was a fair effort of the Prime Minister to reach a consensus.

Ravitz of United Torah Judaism said yesterday that the government's decision to re-examine some of the recommendations was "not only an economic mistake, but also a psychological error."

Cabinet members have drawn a false parallel between the Brodet report and former Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's abortive proposal to impose taxes on stock market investments last year, said Ravitz.

Knesset speaker Dan Tichon declined to comment yesterday, despite having been one of the first to criticize the proposals when they were published last month.

Tichon would not comment, because the issue was now in the hands of Netanyahu and Meridor, according to his spokeswoman Sara Yitzhaki-Kaplan.

Scitex revamp: Staff to be cut, office to close

SCITEX Corp., the once high-flying maker of computerized printing equipment, said it is reorganizing its main division by firing staff, closing offices and redirecting spending.

Scitex said it will take a charge against earnings to finance the reorganization. It declined to specify the amount.

Scitex recently estimated that its third-quarter operating loss widened from the second quarter's \$11 million. Revenue in the graphic arts division, Scitex's principal unit, fell far short of expectations, the company said.

Chief Executive Yoav Chelouche declined to specify how many of the graphic arts staff would be fired or which offices may close. The division employs 2,500, or 69 percent, of Scitex's 3,600 workers.

Within graphic arts, Scitex will close some field offices in the US and Europe.

"There are radical changes in our markets," Chelouche said, "particularly in technology and buying patterns."

Scitex shares are not traded in Israel. They closed Friday on Wall Street up 6 cents at \$10.625, and in early trading yesterday were up 25 cents at \$10.875.

The stock started the year at \$15. It peaked at \$21.75 when investor David Gilo, chairman of DSP Communications, expressed interest in taking over Scitex in April. The stock traded in the \$40's as recently as April 1993.

In March, Gilo proposed to pay \$20 a share for Scitex. He lifted the proposal to \$25 a share in April and dropped the bid in May. Following Scitex's rebuff of Gilo's proposal and his withdrawal, Gilo said he would "continue to monitor developments at Scitex closely" and remained ready to explore an acquisition.

Gilo's attorney in Israel and his spokeswoman in New York could not immediately be reached for comment. In the past two months, two top Scitex officials have resigned.

One of them was Shimon Alon, head of the graphic arts division.

Bezeq to give early retirement to 1,250 workers: Bezeq, which has sent 1,500 workers to early retirement in the last two years, aims to cut another 1,250 over the next six years.

The public telecommunications company would not confirm reports that the plan would cost it NIS250 million.

At present, some 9,500 people work for Bezeq. Due to increased automation and the need for better-educated, highly skilled employees, some workers are being encouraged by financial incentives to leave the company and some are being replaced.

Bezeq's directors recently approved the cuts to help the company maintain profits in the face of growing competition from private telecommunications companies.

Knesset committee approves cuts in customs duties: The Knesset Finance Committee unanimously approved what for most products is the final stage of the government's five-year import liberalization program yesterday.

The ease with which yesterday's reductions passed was in sharp contrast to the fierce arguments that raged when the plan was introduced in 1991, and show to what degree free trade has become an accepted concept in Israel's economic life.

Yesterday's decision reduces customs duties to 12% on most finished products and 8% on raw materials. In a few especially vulnerable industries, such as shoes, fertilizers, wood products and electric cables, however, duties will go down to these levels only in 1998. For textile products, these final rates will not be achieved until 2000.

In addition, some 300 products with comparatively low duties, which had therefore not been affected by previous stages of the plan, were added by yesterday's decision.

According to the Treasury, the loss in revenues due to the reductions will be NIS37 million.

Investors pull NIS800m. from provident funds in October: Provident funds have registered withdrawal instructions of about NIS800 million for October, after several months of record-high redemptions, Bank Hapoalim reported yesterday.

Bank Hapoalim has received withdrawal instructions of NIS250m. from the provident funds. Bank Hapoalim's funds account for about one third of the fund market.

The public's withdrawal instructions to the banks are given by the thirteenth of every month.

Bank Hapoalim said the public's withdrawals from the funds have been declining since August, when the banks received record-high withdrawal instructions of NIS1.4 billion.

Bank Hapoalim said the lower withdrawals are mainly due to the funds' improved yields. In September, most of the funds achieved positive real returns. The lower withdrawals are also due to the government's stabilizing of the bond market.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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Lockheed bid to buy TAAS heavy munitions division on hold

STEVE RODAN

THE government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will have to decide within the next few weeks whether to proceed with offers from major international defense contractors to buy TAAS's heavy munitions division, defense sources said yesterday.

"There must be a decision made soon," a defense source who is dealing with the issue said. "You can't keep these people waiting forever."

Six companies have expressed interest in buying TAAS's heavy munitions division, the most profitable of the government company's businesses.

Lockheed Martin, the giant US contractor, is regarded as being the most serious of the bunch.

The Defense Ministry, however, is opposed to the sale of the heavy munitions division. Defense Ministry adviser Yisrael Tal, a reserve major-general, former head of the armored corps and inspiration behind the Merkava tank, said any purchase of TAAS will lead to outsiders knowing Israel's valuable military secrets.

TAAS executives said the Finance Ministry gave the company the go-ahead 18 months ago to draft a plan to welcome international partners for TAAS, which netted sales of \$460 million in 1995.

Within three months, TAAS submitted a plan and soon interest was expressed by major contractors.

They included British Aerospace and the American firm Olin, as well as several European companies.

In April, Lockheed Martin presented an offer to buy at least 40 percent of the heavy munitions division of Ramat Hasharon-based TAAS.

Since then, Lockheed has been waiting for TAAS to reply with financial documents that would detail the operations of its division.

Last month, TAAS submitted to the Defense Ministry a financial plan and forecast, meant to be relayed to Lockheed.

"We took into account that certain secrets would be leaked out with this plan and asked the Defense Ministry to define the limits," a TAAS source said. "We are still waiting for them."

Industry sources said Lockheed Martin executives have assured the government they are willing to agree to what they call any reasonable arrangement to maintain defense secrets.

At the same time, however, the executives are said to be convinced that politics and not national security is impeding the proposed sale.

"There are many opportunities out there, and if the government is not willing to entertain a serious offer, then Lockheed Martin will go some place else," one source said.

Central bank, government, industrialists move toward rate-cut consensus

DAVID HARRIS

THERE has been some progress toward persuading the Bank of Israel to lower interest rates, according to several participants in the latest in a series of meetings between the government, the central bank and leading industrialists.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hosted yesterday's session, which was also attended by Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, and a team of industrialists led by Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper.

The talks, initiated by Sharansky, are aimed at breaking the three-year stand-off between Frenkel and the industrialists.

Propper and others in industry have repeatedly called for interest-rate cuts of 2 to 3 percent. Frenkel has resisted, arguing he is prepared to cut interest rates only when inflation has been curbed.

Netanyahu suggested during the meeting that interest rates should be reduced, but only after the Knesset approves the government's NIS4.9 billion in budget cuts for 1997.

In a statement after the meeting, the Trade and Industry Ministry said there was consensus on the need to cut interest rates, "but there was an argument as to the means and timetable" for such a step.

Discussions mainly centered on declining profits in industry and on currency exchange rates.

In recent months, industrialists from various sectors have attacked the government and central bank for their fiscal and monetary policies. They have also called for a halt to the reduction of capital-investment aid and are opposing many of the planned structural reforms in the economy.

Banker: Economy will suffer if peace process fails to get back on track

GREER FAY CASHMAN

THE economy will suffer a severe downturn, if the peace process does not get back on track, according to the head of international marketing of securities at Bank Hapoalim.

The effect of a stalled peace process is likely to be felt most in investments in securities portfolios, rather than in direct investments, said Nadiou Baodot-Trajtenberg, who is a senior vice president at the bank.

"The (changing) politics of Israel are often an impediment," Baodot-Trajtenberg said at the

International Lioo, of Judah Conference in Jerusalem.

Before the peace agreement with the Palestinians, foreign investment amounted to about \$500 million per year. In 1994, it rose to \$2 billion.

While the peace process changed perceptions of Israel in the world, Baodot-Trajtenberg added, "Israel still has a stigma."

Israeli business executives are still welcomed to the US, but this is not the case in Europe, she said.

"The politics of today can affect a meeting planned for a week from now."

The decline in tourism has implications for other sectors of the economy, too, the Hapoalim executive said. Many tourists, she said, are potential investors, and the drastic drop in tourism has found an echo in investment.

"The business climate is extraordinarily sensitive to political developments here," she said. "If Israel is not a safe place to visit, they postpone the investment."

Major French, Belgian banks announce alliance

BRUSSELS (Reuters) - The last significant step toward the birth of a European banking colossus was cleared yesterday when shareholders in Belgium's publicly-owned Credit Commercial/Genereel/ediet (CCB) overwhelmingly approved a tie-up with Credit Local de France (CLF).

Dexia, the name given to the alliance, will specialize in lending to local authorities and project financing -- a market estimated by the two banks to be worth some 50 trillion Belgian francs (NIS3 trillion).

Ranked in terms of total assets at the end of 1995, the Dexia group will together be 22nd in Europe. CCB, Belgium's second largest bank, and CLF estimate they already control 8 percent of public authority lending.

CCB-controlled Banque Internationale a Luxembourg will remain a separately listed, private banking unit.

The alliance, which has been under discussion since March, was approved by CLF shareholders last week and has already been approved by the European Commission, Europe's anti-trust authority.

It remains only to be approved by supervisors in the two countries.

"The alliance will allow CCB and CLF, both already dominant on their respective domestic markets, to anticipate the ever-growing competition which will increase due to European economic and monetary union," CCB said in a statement to its shareholders.

Under the terms of the banks' plan, CCB and CLF will take cross-holdings in each other's capital.

Between 25% and 30% of CCB will also be sold to institutional and retail investors in an initial public offering on the Brussels Stock Exchange. CLF is already listed in Paris.

The Netherlands' Bank der Nederlandsche Gemeenten, while remaining outside the group structure, will be associated with Dexia through a 5% stake in CLF and will have a seat on the two banks' boards.

Speaking after Monday's vote, CCB Chief Executive Officer Francois Namron declined to give details of CCB's listing until the banks exchange shares with each other later this month.

Belgium's third largest insurance company, SMAP/OMOB, had said it wanted to take a stake in CCB, which could reduce the amount on offer to the public by around 5%.

"All we can say is that (the IPO) will be in the first half of November," Namron said at a news conference.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Table with 4 columns: Currency (U.S. dollar, German mark, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, Canadian dollar, S. African rand, Australian dollar, Belgian franc, Austrian schilling, Indian Rupee, Jordanian dinar, Egyptian pound, ECU, Irish punt, Spanish peseta), Deposits (3 months, 6 months, 12 months), and Rates.

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates (14.10.96)

Table with 3 columns: CURRENCY AND TRANSFERS (Buy, Sell), BANKNOTES (Buy, Sell), and Rep. Rates. Lists various currencies like U.S. dollar, German mark, Japanese yen, etc.

These rates vary according to bank. Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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Handwritten Arabic text: 'هلنا عن الاصل'



הלאה מן אילנות

Key Representative Rates
US dollar ... NIS 3.1920 +0.03%
Sterling ... NIS 5.0354 +0.25%
Mark ... NIS 2.0855 -0.02%

NEW STOCK MARKETS
New York market indexes
Dow Jones Industrial Average 8910 +40.82
S&P 500 269.25 +1.74

Other stock market indexes
FTSE 100 2702.50 +11.19
Nikkei 225 15742.00 +111.19

Israeli stocks in US
NYSE / AMEX / NASDAQ / OTC
Am & Papp 38.875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00

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Oil Exploration

Stocks fall amid concern over Scitex cuts

ISRAELI stocks fell for a fourth day amid concern over Scitex Corp., considered a leader in Israel's high-tech industry, will buy other companies.

Investors are looking towards tomorrow's publication of September's consumer price index for an indication of whether the Bank of Israel will lower interest rates, Alt said.

European markets gain, buoyed by Wall Street rise

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading stocks hit another record close yesterday as benign domestic inflation data and gains to US stocks combined to push prices ahead in a generally quiet London session.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)
Pound 1.5695 +0.0011
D-mark 1.5053 -0.0009

Lidior rates
Dollar 3 months 5.9430
Dollar 6 months 6.1250

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION AND METALS

US commodities
Cocoa (Cocoa) 1379 -1.2
Coffee (Arabica) 119.00 +0.00

London commodities
Cocoa (Cocoa) 1379 -1.2
Coffee (Arabica) 119.00 +0.00

Spot market metals (US)
Gold spot 381.6 +0.25
Silver spot 5.02 +0.02

New York metal futures
Gold (Dec) 381.6 +0.25
Silver (Dec) 5.02 +0.02

London metal futures
Gold (Dec) 381.6 +0.25
Silver (Dec) 5.02 +0.02

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
Alcoa 27.5 +0.12
Arista 27.5 +0.12
Arista 27.5 +0.12
Arista 27.5 +0.12

WORLD MARKET REPORT

LONDON
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00

Wall Street closes above 6,000 for first time

NEW YORK (AP) - The Dow Jones industrial average rolled to its first close above 6,000 yesterday, as Friday's momentum carried a quiet Columbus Day session, lifting several stock measures to new highs.

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00

PARIS

Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00

FRANKFURT

Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00
Alcon 4.3875 +0.00

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES
MARK STERLING YEN SFY FFf
STERLING 2.147080 176.5163 1.878812 8.168759





FACEOFF - Argentina's Hernan Gany returns volley in 6-3, 6-3 win over Luis Morejon at Ramat Hasharon yesterday. (Brian Heider)

# Washington 1st-round victor at Eisenberg

MALIVAI Washington proved to his fans yesterday at Ramat Hasharon why he reached the Wimbledon final this year.

Playing in the first round of the Eisenberg Israel Open, top seed Washington was clearly in control against France's Stephane Simian, winning 6-1, 6-4.

Washington, playing his first match since the US Open, powered seven aces, regularly breaking the 190 kph barrier as he crushed Simian's serve and volley attack in just over one hour.

Simian relied on his 1.93 meters to cover the net but wilted time and again before Washington's expertly calculated strokes.

Next to face Washington will be qualifier Martin Sinner who proved too much for local player Noam Behr.

Behr, ranked 213 against Sinner's 131, squandered a 4-2 lead in the first set against the German, losing eventually 6-4, 6-3.

"I was frustrated by my game," said a dejected Behr afterwards. "I knew I was up against a player I should beat."

Behr, who celebrated his 21st birthday this

HEATHER CHAIT

week, started off well, playing his usual attacking game but as Sinner settled down, Behr began to lose the edge. After Behr broke Sinner's serve in the third game, Sinner returned in the eighth and tenth games to break Behr.

In the second set, Behr performed well below standard, moving listlessly and passively. All Sinner had to do was rely on Behr's unforced errors to wrap up the match.

Sinner was not enthusiastic about his game. "I missed a lot of points but Behr was very nervous and didn't take his chances."

Eyal Ran will be on court today (7 pm) against a severe challenge from second seed Albert Costa while the third local player Nir Weggreen will play tomorrow against Javier Sanchez from Spain.

In other results, Stefano Pescosolido, who won here in 1993, was a first-round casualty to Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten 6-3, 7-5 while fifth-seed Hernan Gany from Argentina enjoyed an

easy victory over Luis Adrian Morejon from Ecuador 6-3, 6-3.

Armenian Sargis Sargsian, now living in the US, ended qualifier Justin Gimelstob's run in the tournament, winning 6-3, 6-1.

Sargsian used his mobility to the best against the 19-year-old American who lapsed into erratic play.

Today's matches (Play starts at 2 pm)

STADIUM: Scott Draper vs. Jean-Philippe Fleurian, Galo Blanco vs. Javier Frana, Ignacio Truyol vs. Felix Mantilla, Eyal Ran vs. Albert Costa.

COURT 14: Richard Fromberg vs. Lars Jonsson, David Nainkin vs. Grant Stafford, Danici Nestor vs. Marcello Filippini, Noam Behr and Eyal Erlich vs. A Kratzmann and Michael Tebbutt.

COURT 9: Oleg Ogorodov and Stefano Pescosolido vs. M Huning and J Ireland, M Bhupathi and K Kinneer vs. M Keil and S Leblanc, B Haygarth and G van Emburgh vs. Lior Mor and Nir Weggreen, Scott Draper and Stephane Simian vs. Jean-Philippe Fleurian and Nicolas Periera.

# Why baseball inspired Damn Yankees

BALTIMORE (AP) - The rest of baseball's universe isn't aligned yet, but one important piece is back in place. A decade and a half after it last appeared there, the World Series returns to The Bronx.

This is actually something worth celebrating. The game needs drama and the simple fact is, nobody in the game does drama like the Yankees.

Think of the great names and the great Series games. Most of what comes to mind has New York as the backdrop: Don Larsen's perfect game in 1956; Mickey Mantle, almost anytime; Reggie Jackson's three-homers-in-three-swings game in 1977; a half-dozen Babe Ruth games a half-century before that. Even Bill Buckner's error happened in New York, albeit across town in Queens.

It's no coincidence. New York being the best place to win, or lose, ever since baseball mattered. The Yankees have played host to 33 previous Series and kept the trophy 23 times. Not just kept it, but flaunted it. That's why the play was called *Damn Yankees*. And if attention matters - and to baseball, it should - there is still an

better place to play.

The outsize stage, the overzealous fans, the owner's inflated ego, the manager's 30-year wait to reach the Series, even the oversized glove 12 1/2-year-old Jeff Maier wielded - the exaggerated scale of everything is what makes New York New York. The only thing opponents need bring is a toothbrush. The town can drum up controversy, celebrity, gossip, scandal - just about anything else. It makes heroes seem more heroic, villains more vile and baseball all the more memorable in the bargain.

"Remember, it's still the most famous name in sports," said Reggie Jackson, who now works for the club as a special assistant to the president. "Go anywhere outside the country, have somebody figure out you're an American and what's the first thing they call you? A Dallas Cowboy? A Packer? A Mariner?"

"No. What they call you," Jackson said, not waiting for an answer, "is a Yankee."

Jackson and his boss, George Steinbrenner, almost certainly called each other less flattering names before they got into a

scrape a short while back. But they made up, which is very much a Yankee thing, too. Forgive and forget - so long as there's a payoff for everyone down the line. Darryl Strawberry made it in New York a decade ago for the croststown Mets, then left in shame when drink and drugs rendered his exceptional skills all but useless.

He started this season playing in the Northern League for what he used to command in meal money. And people laughed when Steinbrenner plucked Strawberry out of that Midwestern road show in July and brought him in New York to fill the Yankees' need for a left-handed power-hitter. But after hitting just one post-season home run in the 10 previous years, he hit two Saturday against the Orioles and another in Sunday's pennant-clinching win over the Orioles.

He is making real money again. And no one is laughing.

"A World Series in New York? It's one of the best experiences you could go through," Strawberry said.

Celebration reigned on every side of him in the Yankee clubhouse. Strawberry paused for a moment. "And if you win, like we

did in 1986 (with the Mets), and you're riding down those streets in a parade, man, it's something."

It's something, already, for Yankee manager Joe Torre. He had endured the longest stretch of games by any major leaguer - 4,272 as a player and manager over some 30 years - without making it to a World Series. Until now. Like everything in New York, it came at a high price.

Torre lost one brother in June, news that found him between games of a doubleheader. A second brother has spent the last 10 weeks in a New York hospital awaiting a heart transplant. The Yankees built a 12 1/2-game lead over the Orioles in the AL East, then nearly squandered it in the closing month of the season.

Yet, when the moment of victory finally settled in, the depth of his satisfaction seemed to say it was all worth it. Maybe that sense of accomplishment is something that goes with the territory, too.

"It's definitely like no other city," said outfielder Paul O'Neill, who won a World Series with the Cincinnati Reds in 1990 before joining the Yankees. "And from everything I've heard, there's nothing like winning there, either."

# FA charges Bosnich over Nazi salute

LONDON (Reuter) - Aston Villa goalkeeper Mark Bosnich was charged with misconduct by the FA yesterday following his Nazi salute to Tottenham supporters during Saturday's Premier League game.

The Australian could also face criminal charges as police continued investigations in the second-half incident which incensed Tottenham fans, many of whom are Jewish.

An FA spokesman said: "Mark Bosnich has been charged with misconduct following a widely publicized incident during last Saturday's match with Tottenham. An FA disciplinary commission will consider the case in the near future."

"The FA have also had several contacts today with police and we understand their investigation in an alleged public order offence will continue. When it is completed, a report will be sent in the Crown Prosecution Service."

Bosnich has publicly apologized for his gesture, made after fans had baited him over an incident 18

months ago when he knocked Tottenham's striker at the time, German Jaergen Klinsmann, unconscious in a rash challenge.

In a letter sent to the British Press Association, Bosnich said the salute had been a "mere jocular acknowledgment of the crowd's banter".

"At no time did it ever cross my mind that the split-second prank at a football match would offend or upset anyone. I was astonished to be booked, let alone to raise the effect it later generated," he wrote.

"I am very sorry if I offended anybody, no offense was ever intended, only comical mimicry. I sincerely hope that this attempt at humor and the very genuine sorrow at its offense, will conclude this now unfortunate matter. I do not comprehend that people would believe that someone with a Jewish aunt would in any way go out to deliberately offend people."

In Premier League action last night, Sunderland and Middlesbrough played to a 2-2 draw.

# Cantona bemoans: My worst match for United

MANCHESTER (Reuter) - Eric Cantona had his worst ever match for Manchester United on Saturday - but his team showed its true strength by beating Liverpool with barely a single contribution from the captain.

"I'd forgotten that I could play so badly," said the Frenchman after United's 1-0 victory at Old Trafford ended Liverpool's unbeaten start in the season and dislodged them from the top of the table.

"I am very unhappy. If people say I am playing badly it is true and I am very disappointed."

"I did not feel fit either physically or mentally, I did not feel right. Sometimes it happens in your job too. It's when you wake up and don't feel too good then you have a bad day."

Cantona's performances since becoming United's captain have generally been subdued and he was no more than a bit-part player throughout most of Saturday's hard-fought Lancashire derby, watched by 55,128 - United's biggest crowd for 12 years.

None of his trademark flicks worked, his passing was inaccurate and his backheels went to the opposition. The King of Old Trafford looked very mortal indeed.

"It happens to footballers from time to time," he said on the Old Trafford pitch afterwards.

"It happened to me on occasions since my first professional game when I was 17. But there are games on Wednesday (tomorrow) and next Sunday when I have to play better. My next good performance must come very quickly and I can't wait for it to come."

United need Cantona's golden touch to return as soon as possible. On Wednesday it faces Fenerbahce in Turkey in the European champions' league and next weekend faces English league leaders Newcastle United.

Manager Alex Ferguson has criticized the fixture planning which has given his side such tough matches either side of a champions' league game, but

although his team were largely outplayed by Liverpool, at least they took all three points.

Ferguson was also upset that his players did not follow his tactical instructions to try and counter Liverpool's game - but he was full of praise for David May and Norwegian Romy Johnsen for the way they defended.

Ferguson praised May's performance, saying: "He made three tackles on the edge of our box which were absolutely superb. That's an art that's probably dying in the game because defenders are protected by midfielders and delaying tactics."

"But when someone can tackle like that it sends a message to the players in front not in worry if someone runs on to him, because he'll tackle them."

People talk about the saves Schmeichel has made but those three tackles were better."

David Beckham scored United's winner with a shot that went in off the post after 23 minutes.

Player caught on-camera

The all-seeing eye of the TV camera cost Falkirk captain Albert Craig a further two-match suspension in Scottish soccer's first trial-by-television case.

Craig had been called in front of the disciplinary committee of the Scottish Football Association following an incident involving Partick Thistle's Gareth Evans when the clubs met in August.

Both had been sent off but Craig raced after Evans and a further incident, captured by the TV cameras but not witnessed by any of the match officials, took place in the tunnel leading to the dressing rooms.

Craig was automatically suspended for two games for two red cards and Evans for one game for one red card.

But the SFA imposed an extra two-game ban after watching video pictures of the incident and Craig will now miss the league matches against St Johnstone and Partick Thistle.

Wright charged

Arsenal striker Ian Wright was charged with misconduct by the FA yesterday over alleged remarks made about Sheffield Wednesday manager David Pleat.

Wright was reported in some newspapers to have called Pleat a "pervert" in the aftermath of the Arsenal-Sheffield Wednesday game at Highbury on September 16 which Arsenal won 4-1.

He has been ordered to attend an FA disciplinary commission on a date to be arranged.

Wright made the comment on September 27 and apologized three days later.

"It was just a joke. I didn't think it would come out that way," Wright said.

Trouble started when Pleat called for an inquiry after Wright was caught by TV cameras pulling the dreadlocks of Wednesday's Regi Blinker and stamping on defender Dejan Stefanovic.

The FA then wrote to Wright asking him to explain his comments, which referred to newspaper revelations nine years ago that Pleat was cautioned by police three times for curb-crawling. The publicity forced him to resign as Tottenham manager.

Robson, Souness fined

The FA said yesterday they had fined Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson and Southampton boss Graeme Souness for misconduct.

The fines follow a plea by Premier League referees for managers to observe a 30-minute "cooling off" period before confronting officials at the end of matches.

Robson was fined £1,500, severely censured and warned about his future conduct over remarks made to referee Michael Riley after the match with Nottingham Forest at the City Ground on August 24.

Souness was fined £750 and warned after remarks made to Riley after the Leicester-Southampton clash at Filbert Street on August 21.

# Unbeaten Dallas Stars take 5th straight

CHICAGO (AP) - The Dallas Stars continued their franchise-best start with their fifth straight victory, whipping the Chicago Blackhawks 5-3 on Sunday as five different players scored goals.

Greg Adams, Benoit Hogue and Grant Marshall each scored Sunday night in a three-goal, second-period outburst and Dave Reid and Guy Carbonneau added shorthanded goals for the Stars, who remained the NHL's only unbeaten and untied team.

The Stars' five-game winning

streak is the longest from the start of a season in their 30-year history in Dallas and Minnesota. Twice previously, the Stars have begun seasons with six-game unbeaten strings (5-0-1). Chicago (2-3-1) has lost three straight games - all at home - after a 2-0-0 start.

Flames 1, Flyers 0

Trevor Kidd stopped 27 shots, several of them point-blank blasts, in lead visiting Calgary in Sunday's only other scheduled game.

The game's only goal came from Calgary's German Titov, who scored on a power play in the second period.

The loss was the second in a row for the Flyers, who've scored only 10 goals this season without injured captain and leading scorer, Eric Lindros.

It was also the Flyers' first home shutout since their January 13, 1996 loss to the New York Rangers.

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<b>Atlantic Division</b>											
Florida	3	0	1	7	15 4	Dallas	5	0	0	10	20 10
Tampa Bay	2	1	0	4	13 13	Phoenix	3	1	0	6	13 8
Philadelphia	2	3	0	4	10 14	St. Louis	2	3	0	4	14 18
N.Y. Islanders	1	2	4	7	7 7	Chicago	2	2	0	4	12 12
New Jersey	1	2	0	2	6 6	Detroit	2	2	0	4	10 6
Washington	1	3	0	2	14 18	Toronto	1	2	0	2	10 12
N.Y. Rangers	0	3	2	2	10 17	<b>Pacific Division</b>					
<b>Northeast Division</b>											
Montreal	2	0	2	6	20 14	Calgary	3	2	0	6	8 7
Hartford	2	1	0	4	8 9	Edmonton	2	2	0	8	11 10
Ottawa	1	2	4	11	11	Colorado	2	2	1	5	17 14
Boston	1	1	3	11	12	Vancouver	2	2	0	4	9 8
Buffalo	1	3	0	2	8 14	Los Angeles	2	3	0	4	18 21
Pittsburgh	1	3	0	2	11 18	Anaheim	1	2	2	4	17 20
						San Jose	1	3	1	3	13 23

**Rabkin wins 10th Masters**

JEFF Rabkin won his 10th successive Masters title when he beat Cecil Bransky 21-12 in the annual Lawn Bowls Tournament at the Ramat Gan Club.

Sportiada in Eilat

Some 6,000 sportspeople from all over the country will assemble at Eilat for the 16th Annual Sportiada which begins tomorrow.

Open Golf Tourney

The Israeli Open Golf Tournament will take place at Caesarea Golf Club from today through Friday. The tournament will be played over 72 holes.

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הלוא מן האוכל



CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MUSIC Nova, Israel's most enduring and exciting contemporary music ensemble opens its 11th season with a vocal concert featuring Arvo Part's Berlin Requiem and the world premiere of Yosef Brdnanshvilili's new choral work. Also on the program works by Sharon Eitan and Villa Lobos. Yuval Ben-Zur is on the podium and his New Vocal Ensemble joins Musica Nova at 8:30 tomorrow at the Tel Aviv Museum.



Percussionist Chen Zimbalista joins the Bat-Dor Dance Company in Tel Aviv.

Tenor Yevgeny Shepvalov performs at 8:30 tomorrow at Tel Aviv's Einav Center in a program of popular Neapolitan songs like "O Sole Mio" and "Torna o Sorriento," and arias like "La donna e mobile" from Verdi's Rigoletto. He will also present songs from his new disc featuring Russian romances and Israeli numbers ranging from the poetess Rabel to Aviv Gefen. He is joined by soprano Larisa Tatars and accompanied by Tania Kopilev at the piano and a trio of violinists.

THEATER

TEL AVIV University presents Aeschylus' The Oresteia, the final play of the Oresteia in which the ghost of Clytemnestra whips up the goddesses of vengeance against her patricidal son. The show, directed by Ruth Kanner, is in room 207 of Mexico Hall nightly through October 19 at 8:30.

her daughter trying to escape the shadow of the past. At Tzavta at 8:30 p.m. For information, call (03) 695-9341.

Playwright Edna Mazia's beautifully crafted plays force us to look at situations and events we'd rather avoid. A Family Story follows the history of a family from 1935 Heidelberg to the mid-1970s in Israel. Sandra Sadeh stars and Omri Nitzan has deftly directed. On the Cameri main stage at 8:30 p.m. (Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English)

DANCE

THE Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company presents Rami Be'er's most recent opus, When Most I Wink, a captivating and ingenious look at human behavior and emotions tantalizingly performed. Tonight at the North Theater in Kiryat Haim.

Jean Genet is the playwright and the actors are the students at the Ramat Gan Beit Zvi drama school. The plays are The Maids - in which two maids take turns aping their absent mistress with dire results - and Deathwatch about the last night of a condemned man. The plays run alternate nights but with the same set for both on the main stage through October 30 and 31, respectively.

TELEVISION

8:31 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

8:30 Moses and Jewish Tradition 8:30 Family Connectors 9:00 Librarians 9:30 Health 9:45 Programs for young children 10:00 Our Friends 10:05 Stories in Arabic 10:15 Welcome to France 10:30 Mathematics 10:40 Stories of the World 11:15 Scientists 11:30 Science and Technology 12:00 Geography 12:30 Everything's Open 13:00 The Olympic Line 13:45 News Train 14:25 Iggy Cat and Tommy 14:45 Gays, Gal and Goli 15:00 Zombit

WHERE TO GO

NOTICES in this feature are charged at NIS28.08 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS520.85 per line, including VAT, per month.

13:00 The Leftovers - Walt Disney film about an orphanage which is about to close down for lack of funds and the efforts of the orphans to keep it running 14:00 Echo Point 14:30 Junior News - news magazine for youth 15:00 Eitan - adventures series 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 News magazine with Rafi Rehef 17:30 The Mommies - comedy series 18:00 My So-Called Life - prize-winning drama series 19:00

CABLE

16:00 Cartoons 16:30 Things that Can't be Sold 17:15 From Day to Day 18:00 Amores 19:00 News in Arabic 19:30 Magazine on the arts 20:00 News 20:45 Rumpole of the Bailey 21:45 Show 22:00 Cinema magazine 23:15 Video Clips 00:00 Closedown

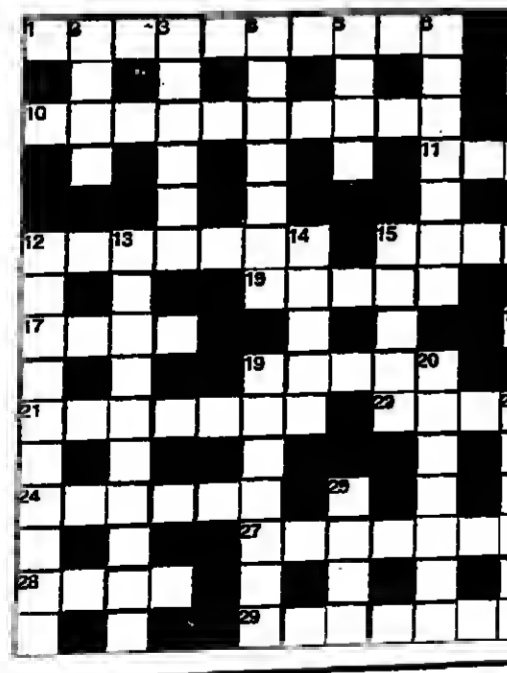
GENERAL ASSISTANCE

JERUSALEM CINEMATHEQUE The Star Theater 5, 9:30 \* A Kiss in This Land 7 G.G. GIL Jerusalem Mall (Mela) = 788448 The Nutty Professor (Twister) The Eight Day

QUICK CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Clump down (6) 4 Cries loudly (5) 9 Garret (5) 9 Famous liar (7) 10 Slander (7) 11 Yield (4) 12 Adage (3) 14 Cowshed (4) 15 Too (4) 18 Tear (3) 21 Curse (4) 23 Hermit (7) 25 Difficult (7) 26 Demon (5) 27 Added clause (5) 28 Drowsy (6)

ACROSS 1 Timely sort of police raid (10) 9 A bird others turn to? (4) 10 People were knocked down in this traffic (5,5) 11 Are in debt, but managed to bring up the children (6) 12 Putting one's feet up between acting engagements (7) 15 He won't stand for his instrument being played (7) 16 They're found on snow-shoes - not skates (5) 17 He floated a company to avoid liquidation (4) 18 Eastern country without a prominent feature (4) 19 Competed in speed with one in the highway (5) 21 Fire-vested? (7) 22 Spies mouth and day (7) 24 Sapphic trouble for our sailors (6) 27 Eat up Peter, it's one way to keep going (10) 28 Deserve to get the bird, we hear (4) 29 Decline to leave rubbish for removal (6,2,2)



DOWN 2 They may be eeking swimmers (4) 3 Put money into underwear? (6) 4 Doesn't let go, but changes instead (7) 5 Fish for tea (4) 6 Real trouble upset Ophelia's brother (7) 19 Decorate from top to bottom, or bottom to top (7) 20 Educational measures? (7) 23 Cheek is smelt perhaps (6) 25 Contant in Gerzusa (4) 28 One who speculates in shares unsuitable for women (4)

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

Quick Solution ACROSS: 1 MELLON, 5 Hate, 7 Cozed, 8 Talled, 10 Inch, 11 Stabbing, 13 Teller, 14 Sniper, 17 Stabbing, 18 Spiv, 21 Bride, 23 Hat, 25 Loo, 26 Mashed. DOWN: 1 Mischief, 2 Lizard, 3 Indo, 4 Notula, 5 Hell-beat, 6 Loni, 8 Aggravated, 12 Hebrides, 15 Popelar, 16 Scream, 18 Barga, 20 That.



FERNANDO

HAIFA

WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA, dial 04-8374253.

EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Jerusalem: Amont, 9 Leiv Yafa, 673-1901; Balsam, Salah e-Din, 627-2315; Shukit, Shukit Road, 581-0108; Dar Adva, 685-0115 (also in Russian); Tel Aviv: Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gviri, 546-2040; Kuf Holim Clalit, 7-9 Anströmstr., 623-2393, till 3 a.m. Wednesday; Pharma Dal Jabotinsky, 125 Ibn Gviri, 546-2040, till midnight; Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einstein, 641-3750; London Minister Superpharm, 4 Shaul Hamelech, 685-0115 (also in Russian); Ra'anana-Kfar Sarva Arza, 36 Ostrovsky, Ra'anana, 774-1913. Netanyahu: Clal Pharm, 60 Binjamin, 536911. Haifa: Derech Hayam, 20 Derech Hayam, 837-1472. Krayot areas: Harman, 4 Sintat Modifin, Krayot, 07-7779; Beit Merizimim, 9 Maslot (nr. Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Prush, 558472, 558407. Open 8 a.m. to midnight. Upper Nazareth: Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ir Mall, 570488. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

MULTI HOSPITALS

Jerusalem: Bikur Holim (Internal, obstetric); Shaare Zedek (surgery, ENT); Hadassah (En. Neuro, orthopedics, pediatrics, ophthalmology). Tel Aviv: Tel Aviv Medical Center Dana Pediatric Hospital (pediatrics); Tel Aviv Medical Center (Internal, surgery). Netanyahu: Lurido.

SOLUTIONS

Medical help for tourists (in English) 177-022-9110 The National Poison Control Center at Rambam Hospital 04-852-2205, 24 hours a day, for information in case of poisoning. Enrol - Emotional First Aid 1201, also in Jerusalem 561-0303, Tel Aviv 546-1111 (children/youth 696-1113), Haifa 867-2220, Beer Sheva 668-8888, Netanya 625110, Karmiel 988-9770, Kfar Sava 767-4535, Hadera 346789. Wizo hotline for battered women 02-6514111, 03-5451135 (also in Russian), 07-837-6310, 06-855-0506 (also in Amharic). Rape Crisis Center (24 hours), Tel Aviv 625-4919, 644-9181 (men), Jerusalem 625-6558, Haifa 853-0533, Eilat 633-1977. Hadassah Medical Organization - Israel Cancer Association support services 02-624-7676.



# NY high school students lead rally for Israeli MIAs

MARILYN HENRY  
NEW YORK

MORE than 1,000 New Yorkers — most of them high school students — rallied near the United Nations yesterday to call for the return of Israeli MIAs.

Although the rally was officially sponsored by a broad section of the American Jewish community, its success was heavily dependent on the Orthodox, Yeshivot and day schools in Manhattan, Brooklyn, Long Island and New Jersey brought hundreds of students to the UN plaza in two dozen buses.

Police estimated that 1,200 were at the rally, which was held on the 10th anniversary of Ron Arad's disappearance.

Standing across the street from the UN on an unseasonably warm, pleasant day, the mothers of Arad and Zachary Baumele made passionate appeals for information about their sons.

Another mother, the American envoy to the UN, Madeleine Albright, sent a statement expressing "the continuing determination of [the US] government to pursue every lead to ascertain the fate of Ron Arad, Zachary Baumele, Yehuda Katz, and Zvi Feldman."

"As a mother and a grandmother, I can only begin to understand the anguish and heartache that the families of these MIAs have had to bear for these 10 years,"

Albright's statement said. "Let me recommit to you that we will not rest with our efforts until we know of their fate."

Miriam Baumele told the crowd that her son, who has been missing since 1982, is also an American citizen. "Even while serving in the Israeli army, he was called on to register for the US draft," and he did not hesitate, she told the crowd.

Yitzhak Rabin, both as defense minister and prime minister, had hoped that Zachary's US citizenship might be useful in finding information about the MIAs, she said. However, Baumele said after the rally, the family was still waiting for more action from the US.

"They give us a lot of lip service," she said, adding that the family has not heard from the White House since the family gave first lady Hillary Clinton a silver copy of Baumele's dog tag.

Batya Arad pleaded for the international community to work for her son's release, and asked the captives to let her son send a letter to his family.

Yesterday was a federal holiday in the US and there was no one available to answer questions about the current status of the American inquiry into Baumele's fate.



Angry workers at Kitan's Beit She'an factory demonstrate outside the Knesset yesterday.

(Brian Headler)

# Knesset labor panel calls on Kitan to keep Beit She'an plant open

## Committee demands solutions to town's employment problems

WHILE factory workers protested outside the building, the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs Committee yesterday called on Kitan to close its textile factory in Beit She'an. Kitan plans to move the finishing plant's operations to its Dimona plant.

At the end of the meeting, the committee issued a statement calling on the company to keep the plant open; suggesting committee chairman Maxim Levy (Gesher) meet with the prime minister and relevant cabinet members to try to prevent the closure; and demanding an interministerial committee immediately convene to solve Beit She'an's problems.

Levy told the committee he feared that most of the 200 workers who would be fired would not find other jobs. He blamed the previous government for not planning new factories in development towns years ago, when the crisis in the textile industry became apparent.

"Private factories arguably want to be profitable, but it is unacceptable that they'll just let people go into unemployment without a second thought," Levy said. He rejected the factory owners' suggestion that some of the workers relocate to Dimona, saying families could not

be uprooted so easily and the distance is too great to commute.

According to Alex Paran, the director of the employment service, there are 509 job-seekers in Beit She'an, about 5.6 percent of the workforce.

"Two hundred more job-hunters will be thrust out in the market, half of them above age 45, which will raise the percentage considerably and turn the town into a center of unemployment," Paran said. He noted that the Tourism Ministry and National Antiquities Authority also planned to reduce the numbers of workers they employed in the town in the coming year.

Beit She'an Local Council head Shlomo Ben-Lulu said the unemployment problem is then exacerbated by the fact that factories that close stop paying municipal taxes. He said the town would collapse without the Kitan plant.

Kitan's director-general Ezra Gonen said the company's main problems are the erosion of the dollar, which affects the profitability of exports; the cancellation of a discount on

municipal taxes, which amounts to NIS 2 million; the transfer of orders by the Defense Ministry to the US; the outlays required by stricter environmental regulations; and the drop in the availability of grants.

MK Shaul Amor (Likud) told Gonen the government had decided to reduce the grants but the Knesset had not approved the decision and the company should continue to operate on the assumption it would not pass.

The representative of the Defense Ministry, which was a major client of the plant, explained that a \$6 million order had to be transferred to the US because the defense budget is obliged by aid agreements to spend a certain sum in the US. There was also a decision to start making the uniforms out of Dacron, which is not produced here.

The Knesset Labor faction also discussed the Kitan closure yesterday, with party chairman Shimon Peres calling the situation "serious." The faction decided to establish a team of three MKs — Rafi Eilat, Elie Goldschmidt and former finance minister Avraham Shohat — to come up with possible legislative solutions to the problems of the textile industry.

### WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

### AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
American	58	68	clear
Berlin	40	50	clear
Buenos Aires	14	22	partly
Caracas	18	27	clear
Chicago	12	25	clear
Copenhagen	10	14	cloudy
Frankfurt	10	15	cloudy
Geneva	10	15	cloudy
Helsinki	10	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	27	cloudy
Jakarta	10	27	partly
London	14	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	14	22	partly
Moscow	10	15	cloudy
Munich	10	15	cloudy
New York	16	22	partly
Paris	11	18	cloudy
Rome	16	22	cloudy
Stockholm	10	15	cloudy
Sydney	12	22	partly
Tel Aviv	18	27	partly
Toronto	10	15	cloudy
Zurich	10	15	partly

# Aflallo charged with conspiring to murder wife

RAINE MARCUS

HAIM Aflallo, a wealthy insurance broker from Herzliya Pituah, was charged in Tel Aviv District Court yesterday with conspiring to murder his estranged wife.

According to the charge sheet, Aflallo asked Natan Aharoni to introduce him to an assassin willing to murder his estranged wife, who Aflallo believed wanted too much money as part of the couple's divorce settlement. Aharoni set up a meeting with a police agent, whose name is banned from publication, and who agreed to carry out the assassination for NIS 100,000.

Aharoni is currently in custody. He was also approached by

Reuven Breiner and Yitzhak Taub, residents of Rishpon, who wanted to injure or kill Aharoni Ginzberg, because the latter objected repeatedly to irregularities in Rishpon and petitioned the courts on the issue.

Aharoni introduced Breiner and Taub to the same "assassin," who agreed to carry out the plan. In both cases, the agent recorded conversations and gave them to police.

Breiner and Taub were also indicted yesterday.

The prosecution is expected to request the remand of Aflallo, Breiner and Taub until the end of legal proceedings against them.

LIAT COLLINS

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"Two hundred more job-hunters will be thrust out in the market, half of them above age 45, which will raise the percentage considerably and turn the town into a center of unemployment," Paran said. He noted that the Tourism Ministry and National Antiquities Authority also planned to reduce the numbers of workers they employed in the town in the coming year.

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### Winning cards

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning numbers were the king of spades, the ten of hearts, the king of diamonds and the jack of clubs.

### Canadian Jewish groups risk charitable status by aiding settlements

OTTAWA (AP) — Groups that donate money to Jewish settlements in Judea/Samaria and the Gaza Strip are in danger of having their charitable status revoked by Canada's tax department.

Revenue Canada is investigating some groups that send money to the settlements, Carl Juneau, acting director of the department's charities division, said over the weekend.

Individuals can send money to organizations in the territories but registered charities cannot because "providing infrastructure" for the settlements is contrary to the government's foreign policy, said Juneau.

"The issue here is whether an organization should be subsidized by the tax system to send funds to promote something that's counter to government policy," Juneau confirmed that one Toronto group had its charitable status revoked this year and another was refused registration last year because it intended to donate to settlement organizations.

"Our reaction [to the application] was that the organization ought to abide by Canadian government foreign policy."

A "couple" of other applications are outstanding, said Juneau, but he would not give details.

Ottawa tax lawyer Arthur Drache said he has represented groups that had their status revoked and others that were refused charitable status because they planned to donate to organizations in the settlements.

Drache, who specializes in charities, says the Canadian government considers parts of Jerusalem's Old City within the settlements. That's because Canada bases its policy on Jerusalem's pre-1967 borders.

# Bill to set up center in memory of Rabin passes first reading

LIAT COLLINS

THE Knesset unanimously passed first reading of a bill last night which calls for the establishment of a center in memory of assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Although dozens of MKs addressed the plenum, only 11 were present for the vote itself.

The bill was initiated by the government, but several opposition MKs attacked the Right, saying they had created the atmosphere of incitement in which the assassination could take place.

MK Ephraim Oshaya called the

bill a "fig leaf to cover the nakedness of the government."

MK Alex Lubotsky (Third Way) said he supported the idea of commemorating Rabin by declaring the anniversary of his death a day dedicated to teaching about democracy, but he absented himself from the vote on establishing the center saying there were better ways to perpetuate Rabin's memory. The Third Way has proposed establishing a university in Rabin's name in the

Galilee.

Lubotsky said he preferred to absent himself from the vote rather than stop it passing unanimously, but he criticized the atmosphere in which anyone who speaks out against an idea to commemorate Rabin was immediately hounded by the Left.

The proposed center would include an archives, memorial site, and educational institute. It would be a corporation run by a board of 27 people chosen by either the prime minister or a minister he appoints.

# Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation grandfather clause extended

EVELYN GORDON

THE grandfather clause in the Basic Law: Freedom of Occupation will be extended for another two years, according to a bill approved by the Knesset in first reading yesterday.

The clause states that pre-existing laws which contradict the basic law will retain their validity until a certain date. It was originally meant to give the government time to rewrite such laws so that they would conform to the basic law, as having large numbers

of laws become invalid at one fell swoop would create a legal vacuum and economic chaos. However, the previous government failed to make any progress, so the grace period has been periodically extended.

The current government originally wanted to extend the grace period indefinitely, both to make its life easier and to satisfy the religious parties. However, Yisrael

Ba'alya said it would not support an indefinite extension — largely because the sale of pork is a big issue in many Russian communities, and the grandfather clause enables municipalities to ban this.

Since the party's support is essential — any amendment to a basic law must pass by an absolute majority of 61 votes — the government promised the bill would be changed in committee to a two-year extension.

The bill ultimately passed by a vote of 68-2, with one abstention.

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